



# TOWN OF PEMBROKE

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Town Hall ~ 311 Pembroke Street, Pembroke, New Hampshire 03275    Tel: 603-485-4747

## **Pembroke Energy Committee May 23rd, 2022 7:00 PM**

1. Call to order & attendance
2. Review and acceptance of April 25th, 2022 minutes
3. PEC Outreach
4. Community Power enrollment mechanisms
5. Survey
6. Other topics
7. Adjournment

## Meeting Minutes

Meeting started at 19:01.

Attendees in person: JJ Smith, Richard Wengenroth, Matt Miller, Jackie Wengenroth, Richard Bean, Rick Fredrickson

Not present: Pentti Aalto

April 25, 2022 meeting minutes--accept minutes as written.

### Introductions

1. Richard Bean and Rick Fredrickson are the Select Board liaisons with the Pembroke Energy committee for the next year, replacing Karen Yeaton, who was an excellent resource and supporter during the past year.

### Outreach

1. A wide ranging discussion occurred regarding Pembroke Energy Committee outreach and Community Power outreach. The following bullets reflect some key points in the discussion.
  1. JJ is invited to attend CIP meetings and identify energy opportunities.
  2. Matt Miller had some email exchanges with Andy Camidge regarding energy committee input into the Pembroke school planning and design (a phone conversation happened on May 24 and PEC is on the agenda of the Tuesday June 8 school board meeting).
  3. Richard Bean introduced an ambition that Pembroke should have some local solar arrays. What would it take to understand the options? Vendor information meetings are a good way to prepare to formulate a Request for Proposals for development of local solar power generation. Various options for financing and ownership (Pembroke owned, vendor owned, etc), each with its own set of trade-offs. A warrant article would be required.
    1. Action Item: Identify solar power generation development vendors to invite to Pembroke for information meetings.
    2. Action Item: Find a solar power versus default utility financial analysis framework--then complete the analysis.
    3. Action Item: Richard Wengenroth to reach out to other energy committees regarding local power generation facilities (Hanover, Harrisville, Lebanon, others?)
  4. Jackie raised the issue of the need to reduce load and peak demand. Richard asked that we should specifically approach the school to initiate some energy efficiency evaluation.
    1. Action Item: Matt to ask Andy for a PEC meeting regarding School energy topics. Done--PEC is invited to the Tuesday June 8 school board meeting to introduce the topics.
    2. This led to some discussion about whether the energy committee can interface with Eversource to get hourly data for municipal facilities like the Safety Center.

Currently, a town representative can request utility data from Eversource and we depend on Eversource's priorities to receive data.

3. As an aside, Pembroke will directly receive all electricity consumption data available from the utilities if Pembroke passes an Electric Aggregation Plan (also known as Community Power Plan) and continues with the Community Power Coalition of NH.

#### Community Power Enrollment Mechanism:

1. Eight towns in NH have approved their Energy Aggregation Plans (Community Power Plans) by town meeting vote: Lebanon, Hanover, Harrisville, Plainfield, Rye, Exeter, Walpole, Enfield. All eight of the towns approved their plans using the "Opt-Out" enrollment mechanism. Opt-Out means that all existing customers who are currently on the utility default electricity service will receive written notification that they will be automatically enrolled into the Community Power electricity supply, and that they have the option to opt-out and return to utility default electricity service. The written notification will also include the electricity rate comparison of the Community Power rate compared to the current utility default service rate. Customers who have previously selected a different competitive electricity supplier and no longer use utility default electricity supply will not be automatically enrolled in Community Power, but will be allowed to opt-in to Community Power.
2. The enrollment mechanism matters because data shows that the vast majority of people do not make a choice, and simply do nothing (this is true for electricity plans, 401(k) plans, and others). There is a high likelihood that the Community Power Plan will reduce electricity rates, as well as bring longer term benefits to NH towns and communities as the program matures and begins to perform local power projects at the request of Member communities. So, there is benefit to enroll a large percentage of residents, businesses and municipal facilities. Currently, NH utilities enroll customers with the Opt-Out enrollment mechanism. This has resulted in over 85% of all customers remaining on the default utility electricity supply. The Pembroke Energy Committee believes it will be highly beneficial to Pembroke to adopt an Opt-Out enrollment mechanism for Community Power, and we are trying to improve community awareness so that the community is supportive of Community Power with an Opt-Out enrollment mechanism as well.
3. A lot of progress has been made on Pembroke's Community Power Plan and on the advancement of the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire's readiness to provide electricity supply. Specifically, we have a clear pathway of tasks that need to be accomplished between now and April/May 2023. A few specific items include: a) two public hearings on the Community Power Plan, b) warrant article draft for Community Power, c) town meeting vote on Community Power Plan, d) Select Board review and vote on approving specific agreements to the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire, including cost sharing agreement, rate setting agreement, financial reserves policy, and energy risk management policy, e) Select Board review and vote to approve the revised Joint Powers Agreement. We would like to update the Pembroke Select Board of these advances in a 10 to 15 minute update presentation in an upcoming meeting.

- a. Action Item: Richard Bean to request a PEC update agenda item at an upcoming Select Board Meeting.

#### Survey:

1. A brief discussion on the survey covered a few points, outlined here
  - a. Purpose of the survey is primarily to increase Town of Pembroke residents' awareness of Community Power and solicit some input.
  - b. How can we use social media more effectively? We may approach the high school with a proposal for a high school student who would like to get some community service credit for doing PEC social media presence work on Facebook ,...?
    - i. Action Item: Matt to prepare a brief proposal for PEC social media internship.
  - c. Must make sure we get the School's input to the survey as they are a big energy consumer.
  - d. Richard Wengenroth has shared a working draft to collect input and suggestions for the survey structure.

#### Other topics:

A few closing energy related thoughts:

1. ISO NE reported that May 1, 2022 was the lowest electricity demand on record, driven by cooler weather and a trend towards more rooftop solar: "Consumer demand for electricity from the bulk power grid dropped to 7,580 megawatts (MW) during the afternoon hours, the lowest mark observed by system operators since ISO New England began operating the system in 1997."  
<https://isonewswire.com/2022/05/05/new-england-sees-historically-low-demand-for-grid-electricity/>
2. Midwest has insufficient electricity generation power for the upcoming summer.
3. F150 lightning has a feature that can provide 3-days of power for an average US house.

#### Action Item Summary

1. JJ to attend CIP meetings and identify energy opportunities.
2. Identify solar power generation development vendors to invite to Pembroke for information meetings.
3. Find a solar power versus default utility financial analysis framework—then complete the analysis.
4. Richard Wengenroth to reach out to other energy committees regarding local power generation facilities (Hanover, Harrisville, Lebanon, others?)
5. Matt to ask Andy for a PEC meeting regarding School energy topics. Done—PEC is invited to the Tuesday June 8 school board meeting to introduce the topics.
6. Richard Bean to request a PEC update agenda item at an upcoming Select Board Meeting.
7. Matt to prepare a brief proposal for PEC social media internship.
8. Generate a formal request detailing the specific electricity consumption data that we are seeking from Eversource for the town - Jackie
  - a. Send request over to David and ask for approval for a member of the Energy Committee to serve as the Pembroke representative in discussions with Eversource - Rich

Next meeting is Thursday, June 23rd at 19:00 in the Pembroke Town Hall.

Meeting Adjourned at 20:07