



TOWN OF PEMBROKE

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

Pembroke Energy Committee June 23rd, 2022 6:30 PM

1. Call to order & attendance
2. Review and acceptance of May 23rd, 2022 minutes
3. NH Solar Choices
4. Preparation for July 6 meeting with the Select Board
5. Pembroke Academy energy outreach
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, Pentti Aalto

Not present: Tim Miller

May 23, 2022 meeting minutes--accept minutes as written.

NH Solar Choices

1. Don Willet of NH Solar Choices presented to the committee. He is the owner of the business NH Solar Choice. The notes are in bullet form.
2. NH solar choice focuses on Community Solar Programs.
3. Don is focused on helping towns in NH take advantage of HB315, which addresses small electricity generators between 1MW and 5MW capacity in NH only. He is specifically promoting Community Solar, which is focused on solar generation between 1MW and 5MW.
4. There is a minimum of 1MWhr annual municipal load for a town to participate. Don states that the law is only written to address municipal load, not Residential or Commercial and Industrial.
5. There is no cost to the Town. NH Solar Choices and its solar developers fully fund the solar farm construction. The town will receive electricity from the solar farm once it is operational at a rate that is 10% lower than whichever electric supply is currently on the monthly bill from the utility.
6. Don stated that the 10% discount applies to electricity service, transmission and distribution fees, but not to taxes and customer service.
7. The process for a town to initiate a project is here:
 - a. Town agrees to sign up (with NH Solar Choices)
 - b. Find available land on Town property. The solar farm must be installed on town property.
 - c. Go through permitting for the solar farm
 - d. Start construction
 - e. Perform interconnection study to connect the solar farm to the grid
 - f. Perform the interconnection to the grid (Eversource performs this step).
 - g. The Town's municipal load begins to receive a 10% discount compared to the default utility rate about 1 month after Eversource flips the switch to connect the solar farm to the grid.
8. The solar farm is built by a solar developer, such as Standard Solar and Revision Solar. These companies will manage the operation of the facility and schedule supply to the grid.
9. The financial benefits to the Town are always greater if the Town invests and builds their own solar farm. As an example, Don cited Peterborough, who built a facility on a capped landfill.
10. Limitations identified by the Pembroke Energy Committee
 - a. The 10% discount from the baseline (default utility or 3rd party competitive supply) has no relationship to the cost of electricity generation. Expecting that the cost of solar electricity generation to be low, this program represents a very limited cost savings

benefit. The trade off in this case is that someone else (Standard Solar) finances the solar farm construction.

- b. The 10% discount is fixed and will not change if there are changes in the electricity market business model. Note—as a result of the recent electricity service rate doubling on August 1, there are more discussions about how to add flexibility to the utilities' electricity procurement process.

Preparation for July 6 Select Board Meeting

1. The Pembroke Energy Committee is on the agenda for the July 6 Select Board meeting. It is an opportunity to update the Select Board on PEC activities, Community Power status, and administrative items for Community Power that will come to the Select Board over the coming months.
2. ACTION ITEM: Matt to prepare a memo on these topics for the July 6 Select Board Meeting.
 1. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UoZUsPP2CowIsI7_GN7PIZhY9y67CIfW_G1oBZnmNis/edit
 2. Notes from the July 6 Select Board Meeting update
 1. The Select Board was very generous and allowed 15 or 20 minutes to go through the update document and discuss some questions.
 2. There are several questions and topics of further interest that we need to answer for the Select Board
 1. Interest in a more thorough description of Portfolio Management model of electricity procurement versus Broker model
 2. Questions about how CPCNH electricity rates work and what are the fractional cost factors in the electricity rate, i.e., percentage of the billed to customer cost that is electricity, CPCNH support services, CPCNH internal staff costs, financing costs, etc.
 3. Does PUC approve the 4 policies in Section 3 (cost sharing, energy risk management, financial reserve policy, rate setting policy)?
 4. Does PUC approve the CPCNH rates and rate changes?
 3. The enrollment mechanism was raised again and at least some members of the Select Board remain unconvinced that an Opt Out enrollment mechanism is appropriate for Pembroke. We should expect that deliberation about the enrollment mechanism will be the biggest part of the two Public Meetings we need to prepare for and conduct in early fall (~September, October).

Pembroke Academy energy outreach:

1. Jackie has set up a meeting with Josh Coughlin for the first week in July to review the energy projects that have been done at Pembroke Academy. They will also talk about energy goals, equipment near end of life and new energy related technology that is interesting and relevant to Pembroke Academy.

2. Jackie reviewed the Hill School RFP. It is very broad and general, with no mention of any energy considerations.
 - a. ACTION ITEM: Jackie Wengenroth volunteers to pursue getting onto the Hill School committee.
3. ACTION ITEM: Matt to follow up with Dan Morris regarding the Pembroke Academy student intern opportunity for a Community Power social media outreach.
 - a. Tracey Bryde (science department liaison) followed up and believes that she can recruit at least one student once they return to school in the Fall.

Other topics:

1. Jackie has asked for at least 1 year (up to 5 years if available) of electricity consumption in 15 minute increments for all Pembroke Municipal accounts. David Jodoin will be asked to submit the request to Eversource.
 - a. ACTION ITEM: Richard to ask David to send the request.
 - b. ACTION ITEM: Richard/PEC to ask that Jackie Wengenroth be appointed as an official point of contact with Eversource for data.
2. Some discussion on pulsed meters and data loggers to research and collect detailed consumption data from a municipal facility; safety center was mentioned.
3. Some revision to the Community Power Survey. Streamline so that it focuses only on Community Power. Aim to launch the survey before the next meeting. Leave it open and active for around 8 weeks.
 - a. ACTION ITEM: Richard to revise survey
 - b. ACTION ITEM: Richard to launch the survey
 - i. Launch on July 12, 2022

Action Item Summary

1. Matt to prepare an update memo for the July 6 Select Board Meeting.
2. Jackie Wengenroth volunteers to pursue getting onto the Hill School committee.
3. Matt to follow up with Dan Morris regarding the Pembroke Academy student intern opportunity for a Community Power social media outreach.
4. Richard to ask David to send the request.
5. Richard/PEC to ask that Jackie Wengenroth be appointed as an official point of contact with Eversource for data.
6. Richard to revise survey
7. Richard to launch the survey

Next meeting is Monday July 25th at 18:30 in the Pembroke Town Hall.

Meeting Adjourned at 20:30