



TOWN OF PEMBROKE

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

Pembroke Energy Committee January 10, 2022 6:30 PM

1. Call to order & attendance
2. Review and acceptance of October 25, 2022 and November 29 minutes
3. Community Power update
4. Select Board meeting feedback
5. Residential Solar discussion
6. Adjournment

Meeting Minutes

Meeting started at 18:36

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

Absent: Pentti Aalto, Richard Bean

It was raised that Pentti's email address has stopped working and that we need to find a new way to contact him and share information with him. Richard W. plans to contact him through Sally, Pentti's spouse.

Meeting Minutes Acceptance

1. The October 25 meeting minutes were accepted as written.
2. The November 29 meeting minutes were accepted as written.

Community Power Update

1. The Pembroke School Board was updated on Community Power Plan and activities during the December 6, 2022 School Board meeting.
2. A Community Power warrant article was discussed with the Select Board during the December 21, 2022 Select Board meeting. The Select Board preferred an informative version of the warrant article and requested a formatting modification.
 - a. To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Pembroke Community Power Plan, finalized November 1, 2022 by the Pembroke Energy Committee, and to further authorize the Select Board to develop and implement Pembroke Community Power, and to take all action in furtherance of, the Pembroke Community Power Plan, pursuant to RSA 53-E.

The Community Power Plan includes a more flexible electricity procurement mechanism than NH utilities and thus is expected to provide lower electricity rates. Additionally, the Plan will provide local involvement in electricity procurement and development of energy initiatives and offerings that are of interest to Pembroke.

The Pembroke Community Power Plan includes an Opt-out enrollment mechanism. All residential electricity customers currently on utility default electricity supply will receive a mailing at least 30 days prior to launch that they will be enrolled in the program at a specified electricity rate unless they notify CPCNH that they will Opt-out of the program. Residential customers already on a competitive electricity supply alternative will be notified how to Opt-in to the program. All residents may leave or join the Pembroke Community Power program at no cost, any time. **Additionally, the program will not launch unless the electricity rate is equal to or less than the default utility electricity rate.**

Majority vote required. Recommended by the Select Board by vote of X-Y.

Unanimously recommended by Energy Committee

3. A Community Power Plan update was provided to the Pembroke Select Board during the January 4, 2023 Select Board meeting.

Select Board Feedback

The Select Board asked numerous questions about the Community Power plan during both the December 21, 2022 and January 4, 2023 meetings. The questions largely revolve around ensuring that the Community Power Plan has safeguards for residents and appropriate practices for notifications of enrollment as well as no penalties or fees for enrollment or unenrollment. There were also questions about the next steps that would follow both a Town approval and a Town rejection of the warrant article. There were also some questions about the impact of economies of scale, and some data was provided during the Jan 4, 2023 meeting showing how the expected 5-year value creation for residents scales with the number of customers enrolled in Community Power state-wide.

Additional Discussion about Community Power

On January 9, 2023, we received a list of revisions to our Community Power Plan to update the document based on activities and progress that has been made since our previous draft was written. Those revisions have been incorporated into an updated Pembroke Community Power Plan, which is identified as a January 10, 2023 revision. The fundamentals of Pembroke's Community Power Plan are the same as the previous draft and these revisions primarily replace text that was based on future plans with text that is now based on completed plans and actual conditions; there have been no changes to any obligations or commitments asked of Pembroke and its residents.

There are four categories of updates:

1. Language allowing that NH Electric Cooperative customers will be enrolled on an opt-in basis
 1. (Pembroke has no NHEC customers)
2. Language allowing that Net Metering customers may be enrolled on an opt-in basis if utilities have not adequately or timely complied with regulatory rules such as to ensure Community Power programs can properly accommodate Net Metering customers
 1. (precautionary measure to allow utilities to get into compliance with regulations)
3. Language conforming Pembroke's Community Power Plan to the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire's (CPCNH) adopted policies for Energy Portfolio Risk Management, Retail Rates, and Financial Reserves and clarifying the implementation/launch process
 1. These policies were approved by the CPCNH member board during a December member board meeting
4. Updates to three attachments to reflect progress to date (Attachment 2--Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire; Attachment 10--How Load Serving Entity Services will be Implemented; Attachment 11--Customer Data Protection Plan)

The Pembroke Energy Committee further discussed two options to reconcile the updated Community Power Plan and the warrant article approved for 2023 Pembroke Town Meeting.

1. Replace the old Community Power Plan draft (currently on the Pembroke Energy Committee website) with the January 10, 2023 version on the Energy Committee website and refer to the new version on the warrant article.
 1. Town vote would apply to the Jan 10, 2023 version of the Community Power Plan.
 2. We should update the date referenced in the warrant article from Nov 1, 2022 to Jan 10, 2023, or simply remove the date reference. There are no other warrant article changes necessary.
2. Continue with the old Community Power draft that is currently on our Energy Committee Website, and referred to by the warrant article (November 1, 2022), and then accept the January 10, 2023 Community Power Plan revisions after the town meeting vote.
 1. Town vote would apply to the November 1, 2022 version of the Community Power Plan.
 2. Revisions to an approved Community Power Plan can be approved by the Select Board after the town meeting vote.

The Pembroke Energy Committee recommends Option 1, to replace the old draft with the new draft and update the warrant article date accordingly. We overlooked the formality of making a motion and voting on this recommendation during the Jan 10, 2023 meeting.

Discussion about Residential Solar

There was a short discussion about some experiences and learnings from going through the process of evaluating various residential solar proposals. A list of some of the topics discussed is here. There is general agreement that putting together a 1-hour workshop for Pembroke residents on this topic would be useful.

1. Your motivations for wanting a residential solar system significantly impact your buying decision.
 1. Carbon footprint
 2. Electricity cost reduction
 3. Electricity autonomy, off-the-grid
 4. other
2. Style of interaction with solar system installers
 1. Site visits, all virtual, email only, etc.
3. Basic installation options
 1. ground mount
 2. pier mount installation
 3. Roof mount
4. technology options
 1. tracking
 2. panel type,
 3. connection to main panel,

4. whole-home standby generator integration
 5. Are all solar systems automatically enabled for net-metering?
 6. Battery backup.
5. Extensibility
 1. How easy is it to add capacity, or make the connection?
6. direct costs
 1. Components, installation
 2. Tree clearing
7. indirect costs
 1. Pembroke voted a few years back that Residential Solar installations have zero impact on property valuations.
 2. Homeowners insurance impact
 3. Need to avoid subsurface systems, such as septic system, water lines, water well, etc.
 4. Future maintenance cost impact (most significant for rooftop solar)
 5. Impact on the aesthetics of your property
8. permits required (utility, town building permits)
9. Utility connection timeline—months of delays possible
10. solar installer track record
 1. referrals,
 2. years in business,
 3. BBB,
 4. insurances,
 5. crew experience
 6. Typical problems with installation that require follow up
11. What is the warranty
 1. Materials and products
 2. workmanship

Inflation Reduction Act Grant update

JJ Smith provided some information about the status of NH rules for enabling access to funding programs for home electrification and energy efficiency. From a NH government website:

New Hampshire will receive roughly \$35 million for each of these programs, for a total of just under \$70 million. The New Hampshire Department of Energy will file an application for these funds when they are made available by the Federal government, however that is not expected for until mid-2023. Once an application is received by the Federal government, it must be reviewed and approved which can take some time. It is not anticipated that these rebates will be available to homeowners until late 2023.

Basic details about each program are described below, however guidance has not been issued by the federal government around these programs.

DUE TO A LACK OF FEDERAL PROGRAM GUIDANCE, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE IF A SPECIFIC PROJECT WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR A REBATE OR IF ALREADY COMPLETED WORK WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A REBATE.

<https://www.energy.nh.gov/rules-and-regulatory/inflation-reduction-act-funding-programs>

Action Item Summary

1. Richard Wengenroth will ask Josh Coughlin about the availability of a Pembroke Academy venue for two additional Community Power public information meetings.
 - a. Wednesday February 1 at 18:30
 - b. Tuesday March 7 at 18:30
 - c. The town library meeting room is being considered as a backup venue.
2. Jackie Wengenroth and Matt Miller to work on a 1 page Community Power leaflet that will be inserted into the 2022 Town Report book. This flyer is due by around Jan 15 (books go to printer on Jan 19).
3. Matt Miller to ask David Jodoin, Karen Yeaton and Richard Bean about how and whether to update the Community Power warrant article with the updated January 10, 2023 Community Power Plan.
4. Richard Wengenroth to prepare a summary report of 2022 Pembroke Energy Committee activities for the Town Meeting report; due around Jan 15 to be in time for Jan 19 printing.
5. Richard Wengenroth will continue to reach out to the town Moderator (Tom Serafin) to get permission for PEC to make a 5-min presentation to introduce our warrant article.
6. Matt Miller to create a first draft of the 5-min presentation slideset and share with PEC for improvement.

Next meeting will be February 2, 2023 at 18:30 in the Pembroke Town Hall.

Meeting Adjourned at 19:57