

# Community Power Committee

## Meeting Minutes

### August 17, 2023

Present: Augie Ros, Riché Colcombe, Janet Byron, Richard Pelletier, Emily Manns (Standard Power representative)

Absent: Emily Wrubel

In attendance: Augie Ros, Jr.

Meeting called to order at 2:00 PM.

Emily Manns opened by stating that the committee needed to select a chairperson and recording secretary. Janet Byron volunteered to be recording secretary. The decision was made to defer chairperson selection until the next meeting when everyone could be in attendance.

**Action:** Richard Pelletier said he would contact the Energy Committee to see if they wanted to add a representative to the Community Power Committee.

Richard Pelletier, in his role as representative for the Board of Selectmen, presented a brief history on the selection process for Standard Power as the town's community power broker. That decision can be found in the June 28, 2023 Board of Selectmen minutes. The role of this committee will be to implement the community power plan according to materials and templates that will be provided by Standard Power at the next meeting.

**Action:** Emily Manns to prepare and present all implementation materials at the next meeting.

Ms. Manns presented an overview about Community Power: what it is, pricing, benefits and timeline. Following is a summary of her presentation and answers to the many questions that were asked of her throughout the presentation:

- Community Power gives the town a way to procure electricity supply with more cost savings and more renewable energy.
- No cost to the town – no tax dollars are used.
- Delivery, emergency services, and billing all stay with Eversource.
- 4 NH cities have already launched and many more are planning or approved.
- This is an opt-out program, meaning that all eligible customers will automatically be enrolled when the program is launched, provided that the community power referendum is approved at the March 2024 town meeting. Riché expressed a concern that there could be push-back from some town residents about having their service changed without their explicit permission.
- Those currently using suppliers other than Eversource will not be automatically enrolled, but can choose to opt-in.
- Net metering customers (e.g. those with solar panels on their property) may or may not want to opt-out, depending on whether they are on the new or old tariff (pre-2018). More detail will be provided on this at a later meeting.
- Customers are guaranteed a better rate on initial launch (for non-net-metering customers) than the Eversource supply rate at that time. However, after subsequent Eversource rate adjustments

(which happen twice a year), there is no price guarantee.

- There will be 4 rate plans with varying prices depending on the amount of renewable energy provided in each plan. A default plan will be chosen in which all eligible customers will be initially enrolled. Individual customers can then choose to opt up, opt down (if applicable) or opt out.
- Customers can opt out at any time (with no penalty) by calling, sending in a postcard, or on the website. They can opt-in and opt-out as many times as they want.
- There will be 2 public hearings before town meeting and one after town meeting but before launch.
- Direct Energy is Standard Power's current supplier but they're trying to bring in others.
- Hillsborough's plan will look very much like the Keene plan, but the Board of Selectmen will choose the fixed rate duration (i.e. 17 months, 30 months, etc.).
- Launch date after town meeting approval can be anywhere from 3-5 months depending on when we submit the plan to the PUC.
- In the unlikely event that the plan fails post-launch, there is no risk to the town or to individuals. Customers would be returned to the default provider (Eversource) and customers' lights will continue to turn on.

Riché concluded by explaining the RSA rules regarding meeting minutes and correspondence.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 7 @ 2:00PM.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Byron