

Hillsborough Energy Commission Approved Minutes
April 13th, 2023; **Bolded items are things to-do**

Meeting called to order at 6:01 PM. Attendance: Brett Cherrington, Chairman; Adam Charrette, Vice Chairman; Jon Daley, Secretary; Sue Durling; Visitor: John Kondos from Clean Energy NH

Clean Energy Presentation

John Kondos from Clean Energy NH (john@cleanenergynh.org, 603-573-9926x705, www.cleanenergynh.org) partners with the Community Power of NH (CPCNH) doing the outreach portion of the organization.

Pricing: He thinks that if we went with a broker, we would likely sign a three year contract for the prices. He said CPCNH pricing will vary more often, more in-line with how Eversource changes their prices, which is every 6 months. Brokers and CPCNH both have contractors who negotiate rates to get the best rates, where Eversource tends to not negotiate as much, since they don't make money either way, so it is "easy" to get better rates than Eversource does. CPCNH is a non-profit compared to a broker, so we need to compare the fees. As more communities join CPCNH, their buying power will increase.

Governance: If we were a member of CPCNH, we would get a vote along with the other members. The board of directors is made of a subset of the members, and will make some decisions, but at some point the "big decisions" would be made by all of the members.

Expert Contractors: There are a handful of contractors who are paid contractors of CPCNH. Some of them, such as legal and start-up consultants would be theoretically done after the first phase of the project. Other contractors, such as Ascend Analytics (Hedging, Portfolio Risk) and Calpine Energy Solutions (Retail Customer Support). A broker like Standard Power has their own equivalents for Ascend and Calpine.

Brokers: He mentioned that Keene and Swanzey went with Standard Power and Hancock also went with a broker, **Jon will try to contact them** to see how they made that decision.

Reserve Fund: The rates from CPCNH are a little higher than what the electricity actually costs in order to put money aside into a reserve fund which will be used to keep the kWh price lower than the default for each customer, and then any extra will be saved and the CPCNH members could vote to install a solar, etc. system which would then be able to supply the CPCNH members in the future.

Next steps: If we are interested in pursuing a relationship with the CPCNH the next step is for the selectmen to sign the Joint Powers Agreement, which is at <https://www.cpcnh.org/about>

Election of Commission Officers:

Jon made a motion for Brett Cherrington to remain Chairman, Sue seconded, motion passed unanimously. Jon made a motion for Adam Charrette to remain Vice-Chairman, Sue seconded, motion passed unanimously. Jon made a motion for Jon Daley to remain Secretary, Sue seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Secretary's report:

Minutes from March 23rd, motion to approve by Sue, seconded by Adam; approved unanimously, except for Sue who abstained.

LED Street Lighting Project

We worked on a final recommendation based on the highway safety committee's input of reducing the number of lights as little as possible.

Weatherization Project

No update.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Funding application status: Brett and Craig Tufts from Central NH Regional Planning Commission on the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant application, removing the vehicle portion so it will hopefully be approved this time.

Becky Ohler (Department of Transportation) emailed Craig regarding some funding available from the bipartisan Infrastructure bill from 2021. That money could be theoretically used for electric vehicle chargers. So, hopefully one of those two funds will be able to be used by Hillsborough.

Green Your Fleet (<https://www.granitestatecleancities.nh.gov/happening/green-fleet.htm>, June 9th) Brett is going to go and will invite other relevant people (Chief Parsons, Chief Stafford, Ernie Butler, Laura Buono) to see if any of them are interested in going. Registration costs \$15. Any commission members who are interested should let Brett know soon.

Commission Logo

We looked at the latest draft and **Sue will work on hopefully a final draft for the logo.**

Energy Commission RSA

One of our state requirements is to report on energy usage, so the Energy Star website that Sue has been working on will be good. **She needs to get fuel bills from the town office.**

A second requirement is that “we shall make recommendations to local boards and committees pertaining to municipal energy plans and sustainable practices.” We need to think about what that looks like and what we have time to do.

Motion to adjourn at 7:56 PM by Adam, seconded by Sue. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Daley