

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Sustainable Hanover-Energy**  
**Monthly Meeting, January 11, 2022**  
**Via Zoom**

**Attending:** Yolanda Baumgartner, Sherry Boschert, Bill Brown, Barb Callaway, Judi Colla, Julia Griffin, Andrew Hatch, Rob Houseman, Robin Kaiser, Sarah Kelly, Peter Kulbacki, Tad Montgomery, Dennis Robison, April Salas, Ben Steele, Rob Taylor, Ben Traugott (Dartmouth Student)

**Announcements:**

April reported that the Dartmouth Energy Collaborative (DEC) has posted its latest schedule. Visit Dartmouth's Irving Institute's web page for a list of events.

**Updates:**

**Energy, Inclusion & Justice**

Sarah Kelly reported that they are working with six Dartmouth undergraduate research assistants who are creating timelines regarding how community power has developed in NH, CA and the US. They interviewed Julia and three other people involved in NH Community Power and want to present their work to everyone at the February meeting. The hope is that the timelines will be educational tools and help us better understand where Hanover and NH Community Power are at and what are the key questions related to energy and justice.

Sarah commented that they would also like to interview April and others on the committee, as appropriate. Judi suggested Yolanda and Peter Kulbacki who is the Town's official representative to the CPCNH board and procures all the electricity for the Town. Sarah is also interested in interviewing the founding members of CPCNH.

**Hanover Community Power and CPCNH**

Julia reported that, as part of the process to finalize the electricity aggregation plan after the town meeting approval, we had to submit the plan to the PUC for approval. It was submitted on November 7. The PUC had 60 days to respond. This past Friday, with just hours to spare before the 60-day deadline, the PUC notified us to say that our plan had been denied because there was not enough information relative to 4 key components. They admitted that the information wasn't there because the PUC hasn't yet adopted the relevant rules. Julia pointed out that these rules has been in front of the PUC for more than a year. The PUC asked Hanover to become a party to the docket to help finalize the rules. The implication was that the plan is fine, but that, until they adopt the rules, they had to legally decline our plan.

Julia has updated the operations committee of CPCNH to bring them up to speed. We might need to make some changes to our plan, which, hopefully, will not need additional approval at Town

Meeting. In the meantime, we need to figure out how to get the PUC to adopt the rules that have been drafted. We are thinking strategically with other players and trying to give the PUC room to act. The PUC has talked about a May timeframe for approval.

April commented that this process is frustrating, and it feels like we are stepping backwards. We don't want to have to return to the Town for more approval. She reports that three more towns—Webster, Hudson and New London--have joined CPCNH. CPCNH is getting new members faster than it can on-board them. The first annual membership meeting is coming up in April when they will elect a new slate of directors. There is a lot of logistical work going on. Everything is moving toward getting operational.

Judi commented that our web pages for Hanover Community Power are out of date. April responded that the next step is to determine what our logo is going to be. All the logos will look special for the particular towns, but distinctive to CPCNH. Hanover is deciding what will be the central part of our logo, not sure if the Baker Tower image is the appropriate image.

### **Tuck First Year Project Application**

Julia had no updates as the selection of projects will be made later in February.

### **Zoning Setback for Solar Arrays**

Rob H reported that the Planning Board is considering our request to allow solar arrays 10 feet from the rear and side property lines and height standards that would accommodate all fixed ground mounted style installations and most, but not all, tracker models. Anyone who wants to provide testimony can do so in writing or in person (preferably via Zoom). The information will be posted on the website.

### **EVs and Transportation**

*EV Data.* Also, the NH State DES was intending to track the number of EVs registered in the State, but doesn't seem to have the staffing to do so. Ben has requested Town registration data from which he can pull out EV data by hand.

*Dealers.* Ben also reported that the Automobile Dealer Association of NH did a survey of all dealers that carry EVs. He is hoping to get this data to create a list of local dealers that are committed to selling and servicing EVs. Sherry asked that Ben make sure to include in his report Tesla, Rivian and other companies that sell models online. Bill commented that Mercedes is taking a strong leadership position regarding EVs.

*Chargers.* Tad asked if Lebanon, Hanover & Hartford could join together to approach companies and see what might be proposed for chargers in our area, his thinking being that the more communities there are, perhaps the more companies would be interested. Ben pointed out that Centerra would be a good place for a fast charger.

April reported that the Revers Center did an EV charging project with Irving a few years back and that there was a suggestion that you could contact Irving if you wanted a charger at your local Irving station.

Tad reported that he spoke with James Penfold, head of e-mobility for Revision Energy. They are partnering with Charge Point to submit an application for the next round of DES funding.

Sherry reported that her condo association is working with James Penfold on some possible chargers. Yolanda asked Sherry if she would be willing to talk with a couple of condo associations in Hanover who are also interested in something like this.

Judi asked Julia if the Dartmouth Hanover Energy Team has had a chance to discuss these charging station issues. Julia thinks we need to pull together a centralized, high-level group (Lebanon, Hanover, large employers like the College and DHMC) to agree on numbers, locations, and types of chargers for the Upper Valley. Creating a comprehensive map that shows exactly where we want to put public (not private) chargers (and what kind) will put us in a better position when funding becomes available from the State. April reported that they did such a project for the College and wondered if we could request this plan.

Peter agreed that he could start with whatever Dartmouth has already done and get together with Tad, Patrick O'Neil and April. April is happy to hand over what she can but is not in a position to take on a new project on a continuing basis. Julia will reach out to Patrick O'Neil to see what he might have to help us get started.

## **NH PUC**

Andrew reported that nothing of substance is happening at the PUC. The utilities think that the legislature will be unable to do anything about this. Julia agreed that a legislative fix is unlikely given the conservative make-up of the current state legislature. The outlook is bleak.

Andrew is spending time closing out 2021 projects—some of them are Hanover based. Money is still available for existing 2021 projects. Andrew is hoping that, when the program does open up in the future, there will be a backlog of work that needs attending to.

Barb wondered what this all means for the residential weatherization program. Andrew responded that NHSaves is funded by the utilities; the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (REGGI) Funds are separate. Some municipal projects, e.g., street lighting, might be eligible for REGGI funds. There is also money coming to the State from the Federal Government, but the mechanism for getting these funds is unclear.

## **Window Dressers**

Yolanda reported that they have just started discussing 2022. They are hoping to rotate the site for the project from Norwich, where it was in 2021, to Hanover for the fall of 2022. Thanks to Dennis, we are talking with the Church of Christ at Dartmouth as a possible site. We're hoping that, because the Church of Christ has such an active green team, we can form a real, active partnership with them for this program. We just need to see if the space will be large enough.

In 2021, a Dartmouth student tried very hard to organize some other students to help out. That didn't materialize, but Yolanda hopes that, if the site is relocated to CCDC, then students might be more inclined to participate.

Yolanda said that, during the lunches and other moments for conversation, there was discussion about energy efficiency in general. The program seems to act as a mechanism to opening people up to other forms of energy efficiency.

### **Building Codes**

The Hanover Building Code Advisory Committee does not want to have a separate code from the State. There is work underway to adopt a newer State code.

Judi asked about Hanover rules for heat pumps. Rob responded that this is an ongoing discussion that will require action by the Planning Board. Non-residential and multi-family dwellings are governed by site plan review regulations adopted by the Hanover Planning Board. These regulations deal with anything exterior on the building, as well as site improvements to the property. Mini-split heat pumps trigger site plan review. We are in the process of drafting language to review the site plan review regulations to amend them to exempt mini split heat pumps in certain scenarios. The challenge is that most condo owners own the inside walls of their units, but the association owns the grounds and exteriors of the buildings; signing off on projects requires input from the association and immediate abutters. So, they are trying to find language that captures all of that. There is also an issue of differentiating between mini splits and more commercial, larger, and noisier units. Rob will keep us posted.

### **Carbon Offsetting Program**

April reported that this Tuck program is charging ahead. They are working on a website that would have a hyperlink for anyone who wants to offset their travel. She talked to Cool Effects a couple of months ago to get the full slate of projects that are available for potential purchase. They're meeting with the Tuck team soon to select a beginning project.

Minutes respectively submitted by R. Kaiser, 1/19/22