

Minutes of Monthly Meeting
Sustainable Hanover - Energy Initiative
Tuesday, September 12, 2023
In Howe Library: Mayer Room and on Zoom

Attending in person: Yolanda Baumgartner, Bill Brown, Rob Houseman, Peter Kulbacki, Dennis Robison, Ben Steele, and guest, Judy Payne.

Attending on Zoom: Barbara Callaway, Robin Kaiser, Sarah Kelley, and Andrew Hatch

1. Introductions

- 2. Minutes.** Minutes from July and August have been posted. Yolanda asked members to make any corrections in the next few days.

3. Announcements/Upcoming Events

- Window Inserts Community Build, Norwich Congregational Church, Thurs, Sept 28, 2023, through Wed, Oct 4, 2023. More volunteers are needed.
- Upper Valley EV Expo, Lebanon City Hall, with extra presentations inside in the City Council Chambers, Sat, Sept 30 from 10 am to 3 pm. Ben will be part of a presentation on the future of EV's in the Upper Valley.
- Sustainable Hanover/SH – Energy Retreat, Home of Robin Kaiser, Wed, Oct 18 from 8 am to 12 noon. An agenda is being prepared. There will be a facilitator.
- Affordable Energy Resource Fair, Sat, Sept 23, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm, with volunteers needed to help set up and take down 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. At the Listen Center dining hall in White River Junction.
- Don Kreis is part of a presentation at the Irving Institute, Sept. 18 from 6:00-8:00 pm.

- 4. Judy Payne** described her project to raise awareness about ways to remove carbon from the atmosphere. She has a presentation that she offered to show to Sustainable Hanover. She said that just eliminating carbon emissions is not sufficient to prevent the main impacts of climate change; we need to reduce the carbon in the atmosphere. Carbon content is currently at 420 ppm and expected to top 500 ppm by 2050. She would like to build awareness on this issue and develop a quorum of people interested in doing something about it. She sees three main efforts that might be possible:

direct capture from the atmosphere or at emission sites, a new type of concrete that sequesters carbon dioxide rather than produces it, and sustainable forestry.

- Robin commented that this issue is complicated, and it is difficult to see what direction is promising, plus none of the techniques so far have been able to be scaled up to a level that is practical. Ben thought that this should be an initiative that Sustainable Hanover takes on, perhaps with some new members. It could be a topic at the retreat. Yolanda said that is a zero-sum game; SH could not take this on without impacting current programs. Bill thought that it is worthwhile to take small steps even if we cannot have a measurable impact.
- Judy will inform us when she gives the presentation at some other venue so that interested members can attend.

5. **Equity, Inclusion, Justice.** Sarah noted that students are working on a video describing REC's.

6. **Hanover Community Power (HCP)**

- Pete told us that CPCNH now has 40 members, about 20% of the communities in the state. They need to have clean audits for three years in order to apply for other financing and in order to get renewable power direct from the sources, rather than through REC's. They are interviewing for staff positions. A second wave of start-up communities is expected in the spring with one community starting in the fall (wave 1.75). The legislative affairs committee is working to get the PUC to solve the issue of net metering customers being unable to join.
- Andrew showed a Liberty Utilities bill on which a small text box says that the power comes from CPCNH.

7. Pete has had an analysis done on switching street lights to LED's, and expects some community input on which ones to turn off or reduce voltage. The LED lights will enable this to happen on a light-by-light basis.

8. **EVs.** Ben Steele said he, Sherry Boschert from Lebanon, and Dana Clawson from Hartford will be on a panel discussing the future of EV's in the Upper Valley and asked for input. He expects to focus on chargers, (1) in public lots for visitors, (2) at businesses for employees, and (3) at multi-unit residences. Yolanda mentioned some of the difficulties of using public chargers. The end point will clearly be when everyone has an EV.

- 9. Commercial Efficiency/New Role with CPCNH.** Andrew said he currently works 2 days per week with CPCNH and three days on efficiency with Liberty Utilities, with the amounts soon to be reversed. His employer is looking for a replacement (or 4 replacements) for his work with efficiency. He has been traveling to 15 communities with Henry Herndon and helping them join CPCNH. His colleague, Brandon, has made progress getting CRREL to adopt efficiency measures, because they can now be credited on their electric bill, rather than be sent a refund check that goes into the entire federal budget.
- 10. Schools.** Yolanda said that she and Judi have been attending school board meetings, and the district has received a facilities audit which included an extra \$40,000 to include energy efficiency. The report, however, included what seemed to be very long pay back periods for installing solar panels (20 years and above) and did not consider PPA's (Power Purchase Agreements). She will send out the link to the entire report (as well as the link to the PUC docket about getting utilities to provide CPCNH with data on net metered customers usage).
- 11. Next Meeting.** There will be no regularly scheduled SH – Energy meeting on Tues, Oct 12. This will be replaced by the SH wide retreat on Wed, Oct 18th, from 8 am to 12 pm, at the home of Robin Kaiser Gish (thank you, Robin!)

Respectfully Submitted by: Ben Steele