

**Minutes of Monthly Meeting
Sustainable Hanover - Energy
Tues, Nov. 14, 2023
In Town Hall**

Attending in Person: Yolanda Baumgartner, Barbara Callaway Judi Colla, Rob Houseman, Robin Kaiser, Pete Kulbacki, Dennis Robison, Ben Steele, Rob Taylor

Zoom: Not available. Internet not-functioning.

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 PM.

- 1. Introductions.** Skipped as unnecessary.
- 2. Minutes.** Judi asked folks to read and make corrections to the September minutes from Ben Steele. Rob T. agreed to provide minutes for November.
- 3. Announcements.** Dennis said CPCNH CEO Brian Callnan will speak at Kendal on Dec. 7 at 7:15 PM. Ben mentioned a webinar on the battery supply chain on Thursday at 1 pm via zoom. Vital Communities is discussing how to plan for equitable transportation, including bike lanes. VC's John Hafner will attend the SH-E session in December. Description of the program is on VC's website.
- 4. Updates:**

Equity Inclusion and Justice. No discussion, Sarah not present.

Street Lights. Pete said the town is negotiating an agreement with Liberty Utilities to convert 504 more street lights (owned by Liberty Utilities) to LEDs, which will cut their power consumption by 75%. A grant helped pay for the transition.

Hanover Community Power. Utilities will set spring rates Dec. 12. CPCNH will evaluate its rates between Dec. 15 and 21 and fix them on Dec. 28. A second wave of communities will join CPCNH on March 1, bringing the total to 18. Pete expects rates to be more stable in the coming year. CPCNH has hired two employees to deal with HR and regulatory relations. The wrangling before the PUC on net metering is continuing; there is no deadline for resolving it.

Yolanda and Judi said they are trying to get CPCNH CEO Brian Callnan to come to one of our meetings to discuss options for using reserved funds. Dennis and Pete suggested finding out what other community power systems are doing.

EV Charging Plans. Ben said he is working on a list of Hanover proposed EV charging sites that would accommodate residents of multi-unit dwellings, employees, visitors, and travelers passing through. Fast chargers have been installed in West Lebanon and White River Junction and are proposed for downtown Lebanon. Additional ones in Hanover and Norwich would create a cluster of options. Level-two, slower chargers may be proposed for town parking lots, the Black Center, and behind Lou's restaurant in addition to existing level-two chargers in Norwich at King Arthur Flour and Dan & Whit's. After dropping out of making a regional proposal for funding chargers, Lebanon has submitted a proposal seeking grants for new sites in that city alone. Hanover needs to coordinate with Dartmouth, which has been making its own plans, and with the surrounding towns. New Hampshire appears likely to have funds to make grants to cover all of the installation cost for chargers it approves.

Window Dressers. Dennis said the third year of window dresser construction was very successful, making about 260 window frames, despite having fewer volunteers than prior years. About 1/3rd to 1/4th of the total was provided for low-income residences.

Commercial Efficiency. Not discussed, Andrew Hatch absent.

5. Discussion of Sustainable Hanover Retreat on Oct. 17:

There was a brief discussion of the [one year and five year energy goals](#) established at the Oct 17th retreat. Specifically mentioned were:

- Defining and collecting data on Hanover's thermal targets/goals for its "ready for 100" goals. Someone suggested the state might have data by town.
- Engaging Dartmouth with and exploring ways it might participate in CPCNH.
- Reigniting connections with large users.
- Expanding Hanover Community Power renewable energy capacity. Specifically, we need to find ways to increase the percentage of renewables in the electricity residents and businesses consume either by having a campaign to "opt up" and/or increasing the % of renewables in our default

rate. We also need to start exploring initiatives we want to undertake once we have enough money in our reserve to stabilize rates (approximately 2 years from now).

Robin suggested we need to build new renewable energy projects because the grid can't supply all the electricity needed for heating and air conditioning. She noted that Irving Oil and others in the fossil fuel industry are greenwashing their records. She called for Hanover to work on educating the public by bringing in speakers like Al Gore, Bill McKibben, Eric Osterberg of Dartmouth and college alumni. Barb added that webinars can help us build a database of interested students and others.

6. Next Meeting: Tues, Dec 12th, 2023, 1:30 to 3:00 PM, Board Room, 2nd Floor of Hanover Town Hall, Zoom Option (but not reliable!)