

**Minutes of Monthly Meeting
Sustainable Hanover - Energy
Tues, December 12, 2023
In Town Hall**

Attending in Person: Members: Yolanda Baumgartner, Barbara Callaway, Judi Colla, Rob Houseman, Pete Kulbacki, Dennis Robison, Ben Steele, Rob Taylor. Guests: Sarah Masters Buckey, Anna Guenther, John Haffner, Timothy Yergeau.
On Zoom: Guest Tad Montgomery (Lebanon)

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m.

Before starting the meeting's business, Judi disclosed the very sad news that member Marjorie Rogalski had died suddenly the day before. Marjorie was a cornerstone of Sustainable Hanover and made endless contributions. Yolanda noted that she was a founding member of Sustainable Hanover, her contributions covering a wide scope and great depth. We will miss her. Marjorie died in Santa Barbara, her winter home. Judi agreed to share news about a memorial service when it is planned.

1. **Introductions.** Committee members plus Hanover resident Sarah Masters Buckley; Anna Guenther and John Haffner of Vital Communities; and Timothy Yergeau of Resilient Buildings Group and New Hampshire Saves.
2. **Minutes.** Judi asked folks to read and make corrections to the Nov minutes by Rob T, who agreed to provide minutes for December as well.
3. **Announcements/Upcoming Events.** Sustainable Hanover meeting will be Dec 20. Ben said he has drafted a plan for EV charging that can be used for future proposals..
4. **Discussion.** Clean Transportation Futures

John Haffner talked about his work on a federally funded project to study clean transportation alternatives with an emphasis on equity in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Connecticut. In partnership with the Upper Valley-Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission, Vital Communities will be focusing on the Upper Valley. Initially, through broad community participation, they will audit transportation equity -- in particular in low income communities such as Claremont, NH and Bethel, VT -- with the goal of understanding mobility needs.

The review will look at pedestrian and bike-friendly options, mass transit, car sharing, electric vehicles, and more. He's seeking broad community input by talking to individuals, convening focus groups, holding community bike rides, and working with local stakeholders such as the Upper Valley Haven.

Ben asked about the connection with providing housing near where people work. John agreed that housing availability is an issue. Anna conceded that people are traveling long distances because housing near work is expensive. John showed a map of where people commute to work in the Upper Valley. He said that one possible solution would be to replace some town parking with housing.

Rob Houseman said the volume of traffic on some of Hanover's roads has lessened since Covid 19 first arrived and changed some people's commutes to work. He said Hanover is developing techniques to count pedestrian traffic using the less expensive option of low-resolution cameras.

5. Updates

1. *EIJ*. No update. Sarah was not present.
2. *Hanover Community Power*. Pete said the utilities set rates last Thursday and Friday for the period Feb 1 to July 31. Liberty rates dropped to 9.875 cents and Unital, to 10.5 cents per kWh. The Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH) will recommend rates on Dec 21, approve them on Dec 28, and formally post them on Jan 2. Pete predicted that CPCNH rates will be lower than those of the utilities. He announced that April Salas will be resigning from the CPCNH Board of Directors at the end of 2023.

Judi said she and Yolanda met with Emma Wolfe, Josh Kenisten, and Abbe Byorkland of Dartmouth to discuss future renewable energy plans, ways to be mutually supportive, and how Dartmouth might take advantage of CPCNH and Hanover Community Power. Subsequently, Judi introduced these folks via email to CPCNH CEO Brian Callnan with whom they have already met. Dartmouth agreed to present their plans at either the SHE or SH meeting in January. Brian has agreed to attend the SHE meeting in February to discuss 1) ways to increase the percentage of renewable electricity purchased by residents/business and 2) best options for using reserve funds once we have enough in the reserve to stabilize pricing.

3. *EV Chargers.* Ben has scheduled a meeting with college officials on Jan 9 to discuss ways to coordinate on the installation and operation of chargers.
4. *Commercial Efficiency.* Timothy Yergeau introduced himself and said he will be picking up some of the New Hampshire Saves work on commercial efficiency that Andrew Hatch has been doing. Tim expects to be here about one day a week, using office space in the Department of Public Works. Yolanda said new legislation and stable funding will be needed to make the program effective.
5. *Energy Goals from Retreat.* Judi summarized goals raised in our retreat. There was discussion of getting large users on CPCNH as well as finding ways to meet energy efficiency, heating and cooling targets. She asked about finding speakers to address these issues. Ben talked of advertising for new members and someone to promote energy efficiency. Yolanda talked of getting geothermal heating adopted and shared among neighboring residences, perhaps at Mink Brook. More accurately calling it geo-exchange, Rob H said you need storage or the exchange may fail. He spoke of a 20 percent failure rate. Yolanda mentioned that 10 percent of residences in Hanover are getting at least part of their electricity through local solar.

6. Future Meetings:

The next meeting of SH-E will be **Tuesday Jan 9 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.** in Hanover Town Hall, second floor Board Room and on Zoom.

There will be a Joint Meeting of SH and SHE on **Wed, Jan 17 at 8:30 to 10 a.m.** in Hanover Town Hall, second floor boardroom and on zoom. Guest Emma Wolfe, Josh Keniston, Abbe Byorklund, and Rosi Kerr of Dartmouth will present the College's greenhouse gas reduction and renewable energy plans. This will be followed by discussion, including ways the town and college can be mutually supportive.

The February meeting of SH-E will be held on **Tuesday, Feb 13, 2024 from 1:30 to 3:00 pm** in Hanover Town Hall, second floor boardroom and on zoom. We will discuss with guest Brian Callnan, CEO of CPCNH, 1) ways to increase the

percentage of renewable electricity purchased by residents/business and 2) best options for using reserve funds once we have enough in the reserve to stabilize pricing.

Rob T.