

**Town of Boscawen  
ENERGY COMMITTEE  
Boscawen Municipal Complex  
FINAL MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Edward J. Cherian, Jr—Chair; Charles Niebling—Vice Chair; Gary Tillman

**Members Excused:** Nate Preisendorfer

**Staff Present:** Kara Gallagher-Planning & Community Development Assistant & Kearsten O'Brien—Deputy Planning & Community Development Director

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Chair Cherian opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Deputy PCD Director O'Brien completed roll call.

**Minutes:**

**Vice Chair Niebling motioned to accept the 5.16.23 draft minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Tillman. All in favor. None opposed.**

**New Business:**

*CPCNH Boscawen Electric Aggregation Plan:* At the last meeting, a discussion on sending post cards to every resident in town that pays for electricity took place. Since then, research was conducted and that route was decided to be too expensive to pursue. The alternative idea was to create a flyer, and hand that flyer out around town. Suggestions of placing the flyer in the Newsvine, handing them out to the parents of the children attending the Parks & Rec program, at the transfer station, as well as asking businesses in Boscawen to have stacks available to give out was discussed. Another option would be to have a presence at Old Home Day. Vice Chair Niebling offered to draft the flyer. Deputy PCD Director O'Brien and PCD Assistant Gallagher will print the flyers once the design is finalized.

Chair Cherian asked if the Public Hearing dates and locations had been confirmed. PCD Assistant Gallagher verified these with PCD Director Easler. The Public Hearings will be Saturday September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9 am, and Monday November 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Both hearings will be held at the Municipal Complex in the Board Room on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. Chair Cherian asked if there will be any speakers for the hearings. Vice Chair Niebling said he will invite Henry Herndon from CPCNH, as well as Clyde Carson from the Town of Warner. Mr. Carson is a good resource from another town that has been through this same process.

Chair Cherian said the committee needs to prepare a fact sheet to have available to give out at the hearings. He said the Town of Warner has a great one that we could use. He also said there should be a basic presentation that can explain the process. CPCNH has something already created that

the committee could utilize. Vice Chair Niebling will ask if the committee can use CPCNH's documents for the hearings.

Mr. Tillman suggested meeting in August instead of the current September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, to finalize all documents and to ensure the committee is prepared for the hearings. All concurred.

Kearsarge Energy- Mr. Malcolm Bliss, Senior Director of Power Markets at Kearsarge Energy, attended the meeting to discuss potential options for solar within Boscawen. Vice Chair Niebling said Boscawen is moving in the direction of joining CPCNH. Mr. Bliss said that would not interfere or conflict with solar. Kearsarge Energy has 30 active projects in NH. These projects will produce more electricity than the partners of those projects will use. They are overproducing relative to their partner's needs. This provides an opportunity for group net metering. This could be a way for Boscawen to benefit from excess production if there are no sites available to place an array. Mr. Bliss said Kearsarge Energy has been building and delivering solar facilities of 500 kW and up since 2009. These would be most often ground mounted arrays. These arrays would take up a couple of acres or more. Since 2009, Kearsarge Energy has tuned their business to work with public entities, municipalities and state government in the terms of the way they contract, finance, engineer and deliver their projects. There is no investment on the part of their partners. If there is a parcel of land that met their technical criteria, they would proceed at no cost to the town. Over the lifespan of the project, 25 years for example, the town would likely receive payment in lieu of taxes, savings on electricity, and a lease for the land. This could create an opportunity to use an underdeveloped or underutilized piece of land and turn it into an economic positive asset with no upfront investment. Mr. Bliss provided a handout showcasing a recent project done by Kearsarge Energy, the Dunbarton Road closed and capped landfill in Manchester. The project is a 3.3 mW solar array, and is the largest net metering facility in the state. Since going live over a year ago, the project has already saved the city of Manchester tens of thousands of dollars. If Boscawen has any areas that could potentially hold an array, Kearsarge Energy would do an assessment to see if the site would meet their criteria, at no cost to the town. Vice Chair Niebling asked under an arrangement where Kearsarge Energy owned the system, and the town enters into a long term power purchase agreement, what sort of discount would be typically received relative to competitive rates that are currently available. Boscawen currently has a supply agreement with Constellation. Mr. Bliss said the agreement with Constellation would not restrict or interfere with the town's access to solar. He said the way these projects work, including the project in Manchester, there's always a discount to the credit value from the solar farm. The host facility produces electricity measured by the utility in kWh every month. Then the utility assigns a dollar value, set by the State, to the electricity produced by the host. The utility distributes to members the dollar value of electricity produced by the host. The dollar value appears as a credit on the members' monthly bills and directly reduces the amount members pay to the utility. Members pay the host a discount for the credits appearing on their electricity bills and reduce their electricity spending by the amount of the discount. Chair Cherian asked if the discount was off the default rate. Mr. Bliss said the discount is off the group net metering rate. Discussion ensued. Mr. Bliss said Kearsarge Energy would be happy to assess the town's electric usage. Vice Chair Niebling said the load is around 220,000 kWh a year. Facilities Director Gary Moore told Mr. Bliss the town pays around \$2500-\$3000 a month towards electricity. Chair Cherian asked what a typical contract length would be. For group net metering members, the life of the contract is the same as the economic life of the project, generally 20-25 years. The NH group net metering program provides

favorable treatment for municipalities. Vice Chair Niebling told Mr. Bliss that Boscawen's best location for a solar project is about a mile away from 3 phase power, and if that would be a deal killer. Mr. Bliss said that is normally difficult to overcome. Chair Cherian said there may be other options for that site. Vice Chair Niebling asked if Mr. Bliss would be willing to look at a list of properties in Boscawen that have sufficient acreage. Mr. Bliss will do so and report back.

**Old Business:**

*Schedule of Town Properties Map 81D Lot 94:* Vice Chair Niebling reached out to a handful of people and received responses from Mr. Preisendorfer, Public Works Director Dean Hollins, and Selectwoman Lorrie Carey, all of whom are willing to join in on a site walk at the transfer station property. Vice Chair Niebling will try to coordinate this walk on weekday after 3 pm before June 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Mr. Tillman motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Vice Chair Niebling. All in favor. None opposed.**

**Next Meeting: August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, @ 5:30 p.m.**

*Respectfully submitted by Kara Gallagher.*