

**Town of Boscawen
ENERGY COMMITTEE
Boscawen Municipal Complex
FINAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 28th, 2023 @ 4:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Edward J. Cherian, Jr—Chair; Charles Niebling—Vice Chair; Gary Tillman; Nate Preisendorfer; Matthew Burdick—Ex-Officio

Guests: Bill Bevans—Select Board Member

Staff Present: Kara Gallagher-Planning & Community Development Assistant & Kellee Jo Easler-Planning and Community Development Director

Chair Cherian opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

PCD Assistant Gallagher completed roll call.

Minutes:

Mr. Tillman requested one change to Line 19: strike the second “opened”.

Chair Cherian motioned to accept the 1.17.23 draft minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. Tillman. All in favor. None opposed.

Election of Committee Officers:

Mr. Tillman motioned to keep the Committee Officers as is. Seconded by Mr. Preisendorfer. All in favor. None opposed.

New Business:

CPCNH Boscawen Electricity Aggregation Plan- Chair Cherian provided a brief summary for Mr. Burdick as the new Ex-Officio and the new Select Board member Mr. Bevans, who was present in the audience. The Select Board voted to join the Coalition last year. This agreement is non-binding, and there are no commitments of money or resources. We are in the beginning of the process. The law requires the town to formally designate an Electric Aggregation Committee. The Select Board designated the Energy Committee to fulfill that role. The law then requires the Committee to inform the Public Utilities Commission, which has been done, and to request data on all electric meters in town from the utility companies, which has also been done. The next step is to customize the Electric Aggregation Plan (EAP), which is fairly lengthy. CPCNH provides the template for the EAP. Once the EAP is in a full draft form, it must be presented to the public, by way of two Public Hearings, who will then provide feedback on whether to move forward or not. Once feedback is received from the public, the EAP would be finalized and recommended to the Select Board, made into a Warrant Article if approved, and brought to Town Meeting 2024. This

would allow the town to fully join the Coalition and procure energy from them. This would be an opt-out program. Discussion ensued. Chair Cherian would like a Q&A sheet made up for the Public Hearings.

Chair Cherian would like to set up a work session meeting in April to work on the EAP. He proposed April 18th at 6:00 p.m. All concurred. PCD Assistant Gallagher will create an agenda and send to all members. Chair Cherian proposed two Public Hearings, one in June and one in September. Discussion ensued.

Schedule of Town Properties: The town owns 95 acres where the transfer station is located at Map 81D Lot 94, 36 Marlboro Road. After looking at all town owned properties, this would be the best option for a potential solar array. This would require 25-30 acres. Vice Chair Niebling said some of the acreage is inaccessible because of a brook that runs through the property, the capped landfill, transfer station, etc. There is no Three-Phase power. The closest one is on High Street. Chair Cherian suggested a site walk. Discussion ensued. Chair Cherian asked if anyone has spoken about this with Public Works Director Dean Hollins. PCD Director Easler said she would talk to him about it at the next Select Board Department Head meeting. Chair Cherian said this could be something to turn into an RFP. Discussion ensued.

Solar Exemptions: Vice Chair Niebling said he was curious as to how solar projects are assessed and the amount of a solar exemption is determined. It was suggested to invite someone from Avitar to come to a future meeting to explain. Vice Chair Niebling said if Solar Exemptions are going to continue to grow then it is important to understand the assessment process. PCD Director also mentioned that once a building permit is closed out for a solar project, the PCD office sends out a PA-29 to the property owner to notify them of the Solar Exemption. PCD Assistant Gallagher said there have been 19 solar projects opened since January 1st, 2022.

Other Business:

Public Comment: Chair Cherian asked to add a section on the monthly agenda for Public Comment so that there may be an option for audience members to speak. If this is not formally on the agenda, no public comment can be heard.

Planning and Community Development Department Update: PCD Director Easler said there was nothing new to report. Planning Board will have a quiet meeting in April and will use that time to work on the Master Plan with Central NH Regional Planning Commission.

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

Next Meeting: April 18th, 2023, @ 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kara Gallagher.