

**Town of Boscawen
ENERGY COMMITTEE
Boscawen Municipal Complex
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 10th, 2022, 5:30 P.M.**

Members Present: Edward J. Cherian Jr— Chair.; Charles Niebling— Vice Chair; Scott Maltzie PHD; Gary Tillman, Nate Preisendorfer

Excused: Ex-Officio- Paul Dickey

Guests Present: Matthew Monahan & Stephanie Alexander- Central NH Regional Planning Commission

Staff: Kellee Jo Easler— Planning and Community Development Director; Town Administrator- Katherine Phelps

Chair Cherian opened the meeting at 5:30 P.M.

Dr. Scott Maltzie motioned to accept the draft minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Gary Tillman. All in favor. None opposed.

Planning and Community Development Director Kellee Easler introduced Ms. Stephanie Alexander & Matt Monahan to discuss the Renewable Energy System Ordinance and the Energy Master Plan with the Planning Board. . The Energy Committee has seen the ordinance but has not discussed it. It has gone to legal with changes as noted. Chair Cherian asked if it was resembling the small wind energy ordinance model. The purpose is the same but in addition will be covering wood boilers and solar as well. The ordinance would be going onto the 2023 warrant. Legal suggested waiting until next year and allowing the committee to thoroughly review the ordinance. Chair Cherian suggested passing the ordinance around for everyone to review because it is very wind oriented. Chair Cherian asked Ms. Alexander what her approach is in other towns. Ms. Alexander had the Planning Board develop the ordinance in 2020. When she helped another town develop this ordinance, she used what was standard in the state. Solar energy hasn't been picked up in the states in a long time, so the ordinance is made up of several different components. It came from Boscawen's own Small Wind Energy Systems and the Solar was comprised from information in discussion groups, partly model solar ordinances from the State and some examples from around the State. The Wood Boiler ordinance came from other sources available because there were limited resources. Mr. Matthew Monahan said right now it is just about reviewing the ordinance and presenting it because they have time. Mr. Monahan suggested focusing on attorney edits such as the thresholds and standards for panels and the size of elements. Also, it is important to make sure the Master Plan itself and the Ordinance are connected at the end. After they make attorney edits, Mr. Monahan will focus on the connectivity between the ordinance/work they are doing and the Master Plan. They would present the attorney edits to the Planning Board in the summer, so they have something to present at their public hearing next year. Chair Cherian asked the committee if they want to focus on the Master Plan tonight and make redline comments on the Ordinance. Vice Chair Niebling agreed and noted he

would investigate the wood boiler piece because he has expertise in the area. In addition, Vice Chair Niebling circulated a model ordinance that was developed a year or two ago by Clean Energy NH. There was a huge regulatory process that Concord, NH has gone through over solar that ultimately led to an ordinance being adopted in Concord. Vice Chair Niebling thinks they could benefit greatly from Concord's expertise and detailed analysis they did on all the fine print. Mr. Monahan said some challenges they were having was determining what is large and what is small in terms of the thresholds. Chair Cherian thinks it is one of the challenges. They may want to think about the sizing. Chair Cherian asked if the Planning Board wants to make thresholds based on the size of the project. The committee will review the sizing thresholds. Dr. Maltzie asked if Mr. Monahan has worked with a town in the Central NH Planning Region that the committee can refer to. Mr. Monahan said Allenstown did a great job but given the emerging technology and experience overtime, Concord might also provide great expertise. Mr. Monahan asked the committee to review the objectives they want to include. One objective they need to discuss is what is consider big and small in terms of size. The Master Plan should be driving the objectives for the ordinance itself. Vice Chair Niebling said guiding principles is an objective because he wants the Town of Boscawen to welcome and encourage renewable energy and not create obstacles through regulatory authority. Ms. Alexander said the draft ordinance from 2020 on page 11 has a table of uses dependent upon the district, in which they did try to consider some of the factors for this ordinance. The committee will review objectives and make redline comments to review with Mr. Monahan at the next meeting. They will also review the successful ordinances from Allenstown and Concord. Mr. Monahan asked the committee as they are reviewing the material to think about who they want to master the ordinance such as the Planning Board or building inspector.

Chair Cherian opened the discussion for the Energy Master Plan. Ms. Alexander reviewed the committee members attempts to update the Master Plan. The Energy chapter was data intensive with different resources that needed to be researched and located. The data sources constantly change. The Energy Chapter will want to lay out things that will be appearing in the Renewable Energy Ordinance being developed. Ms. Alexander asked if the committee was still thinking of wind, solar and wood boilers for the ordinance. The committee is still thinking of wind, solar and wood boilers for the ordinance. Chair Cherian said their goal was to focus in on electricity being a subset of energy. There is other terminology the committee added to reflect the State's market. There isn't a lot of data for the Town of Boscawen on that level. Ms. Alexander said a new data set will be available from ACS. They are seeing a lot of 2015 to 2019 for different data sets. PCD Director Easler estimated about 26 roof top projects in Town based on filing for exemptions. Ms. Alexander went through the committees' comments and most of them were on point. They can update the latest data sources that they can locate unless they choose to remove specifics. The data they are working with in the region is broad. Chair Cherian asked if she thinks it is something that is ready to go back to the Planning Board. PCD Director Easler received two comments back from the Planning Board. One was concerning the information that might seem specific to Boscawen. They asked if it meant they had to have someone monitoring it for current changes and if so, who would it be. Chair Cherian said if the Planning Board wants the Energy Committee to check these numbers annually and update them, the committee would take it on as an action. The Planning Board owns the Master Plan, and it is a guiding document on planning Economic Development. The Energy Committee only makes recommendations. Mr. Preisendorfer asked how often they want them to revise it with data that is constantly changing

or does it go to the Planning Board annually. Ms. Alexander suggested looking at this chapter more frequently because technology changes, there is input related to the ordinance and interest in the community. Chair Cherian said Ms. Alexander can accept or reject comments and send recommendations to Planning Board. If she recommends, they review it every 6 months, PCD Director Easler will put it on the agenda. Ms. Alexander suggested reviewing every 2 years. Each data set is an individual snapshot in time. They have a snapshot from November of 2020 and when they have new information to add, they can add the next snapshot to start seeing the trends happening in Town over time. Mr. Preisendorfer thinks price changes overtime needs to be included for energy costs. Vice Chair Niebling said there is good data kept by the Department of Energy on fuel costs and they track it tightly overtime. They track propane, oil, wood pellets, electricity, and natural gas. Ms. Alexander said the committees proposed additions make sense, but she will need guidance because she doesn't know what the Town's position is on some of the things. Ms. Alexander wants to know if the committee wants to propose the changes to the Planning Board and if so, how should she reword it. Chair Cherian said the purpose of editing was to propose it to the Planning Board. Vice Chair Niebling asked Ms. Alexander to flag the key issues where she thinks there is difference in opinion. The committee will then review the differences and come up with a resolution.

PCD Director Easler has not received an update from Madeline Mineau on the Briar Hydro net metering agreement. Vice-Chair Niebling said Madeline is finalizing a deal with the city of Concord and then going to bring similar terms to Boscawen. It is taking longer than anticipated.

Chair Cherian asked PCD Director Easler to put Energy Facility Tours planning on the agenda as they approach Spring. They will try to arrange a few tours such as Brian Hydro, MVwood boiler, a solar project, and a wind project. They may want to open it to the public, but they would need to know how many people are attending. For example, the first 30 people to sign up on the website for Briar Hydro could attend. It is primarily outside touring. They will set up tours as they get closer to the Springtime. With the Select Board's approval, they will offer touring to the public.

New Business: Vice Chair Niebling said Sun Jet Energy in TriTech Americas reached out. He let the guy know that the committee would discuss his request to come meet. They may see more enterprising commercial and community municipal solar project developers. The committee discussed how they wanted to handle these situations. Chair Cherian said it is the Select Board's decision. Chair Cherian said these developers send letters to numerous towns and go where they get better terms. He suggested having them make a concrete offer with terms. Until numbers are presented, it is hard to evaluate. PCD Director Easler said the Select Board referred Bright Spot Solar to the Energy Committee to get recommendations on what to do. Chair Cherian would like to go back to the Select Board and ask if the committee can ask the developers to present an initial offer. Vice Chair Niebling said there needs to be a higher-level discussion on if it is the objective of the Town to either own outright or enter a PPA with a solar project developer. He thinks they need guidance from the Select Board. Chair Cherian said from knowledge the answer is yes. They would need to do numbers, but Chair Cherian recommended the PPA side. The PPA and pilot is taxable value. Vice Chair Niebling suggested allowing developers presentations and then if the Town is interested in proceeding, they should develop an RFP and go through a competitive process. PCD Director Easler will invite Sun Jet Energy and Bright Spot Solar via

GoToMeeting to present next meeting. Dr. Maltzie said to make clear that the committee is in a pre-decision information gathering mode and has only existed for 3 months but are interested in learning more. Also note to prepare for a 10-to-15-minute presentation.

Next meeting is February 14th, 2022, at 5:30 PM.

Mr. Tillman motioned to adjourn. Dr. Maltzie seconded. All in favor. None opposed.

Respectfully submitted by Hannah Gardner.