

COMMUNITY POWER COMMITTEE
Minutes, October 13, 2021
Walpole Public Meeting

The Community Power Committee of Walpole called a public meeting to order on Wednesday, October 13, 2021, at 6:30 pm in the Town Hall.

Committee members introduced were Paul Looney, Chair, Dennis Marcom, Andrew Dey, Steve Grenier, Patrick Kiniry, Rod Bouchard, and Peggy Pschirrer.

Members of the Walpole Community included the following: Steve Dalessio, Leroy Watson, Cheri Watson, Ray Boas, Janet Wilson, Kit Bowry, Peter Stolley, Dale Woodward, Peter Dexter, Lynne Reed, Don Sellarole, and Joey Andros.

Paul Looney did a power point presentation which is attached to these minutes. The power point explains the purpose of the Community Power Point Committee. Walpole is now a founding member of the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire, recently incorporated to provide a not-for-profit coalition whose purpose is to provide aggregation plans for lower electrical prices than the current default rates. Plans will also include access to at least 25% renewable resources. Towns will have local control currently unavailable. Electric rates will be cheaper and will be from renewable sources.

As a member of CPCNH Walpoleans will be able to opt out of Liberty Utilities or can opt of the Coalition. If, at Town Meeting the voters adopt our proposed aggregation plan, everyone will be included; if a voter doesn't wish to be included, the voter can opt out after the Town vote.

Dennis Marcom described the Vermont Program, VSSPA, which consists of 11 towns; it provides renewable energy sources.

Peter Stolley asked about the potential for Net metering through CPCNH which Paul explained might be gained through solar power.

Janet Wilson asked where and how CPCNH would broker power. The CPCNH may use ISNE as a power source.

The Public Utility Commission is to be replaced by a new Energy Department.

CPCNH will establish a reserve fund in each member Town's name.

Paul Looney explained the current billing system of Liberty Utilities: rates were increased by 30% in July. Distributions and transmission costs were highlighted.

The Walpole CPC will come before the Town Meeting with a specific proposal to adopt the Town's Aggregation Plan which will be explained during at least two more public meetings and be on the Town's website.