

WALPOLE POWER COMMITTEE  
Minutes, December 8, 2021

Paul Looney, Chair, called the Walpole Power Committee to order at approximately 6:30 pm. Present in person were Dennis Marcom, Andrew Dey, Steve Grenier and Peggy Pschirrer. Present by Zoom was Rod Bouchard. Pat Kiniry was absent.

Mr. Looney reported on a meeting he attended with members of Peterborough and Harrisville who were meeting with Samuel Golding.  
The group discussed Joining CPCNH or joining Standard Power.

Mr. Golding described the CPCNH model as well as a Broker model.  
Mr. Golding was asked what if Liberty asks for a raise. His response was that CPCNH would need to figure their add-on percentage, what would the increase be?

CPCNH will buy power for the long term.  
The cost of power would have an add-on and we would recommend a percentage for the reserve fund.

No one knows the cost of energy CPCNH will get.  
Startup costs will be factored in so initial costs will be higher.  
When a new Town join (after CPCNH is fully functional), that new Town will have a higher cost to join.  
Mr. Golding stated that 95% of power will be purchased for long term.  
Reserve Funds are to absorb shock of changing costs.

Reserve Funds will be held by CPCNH in a bank; interest will be prorated. We are relying on the expertise of CPCNH. Mascoma Bank will hold funds.

Broker Model: The broker model will buy power for a period of time. Brokers are Standard Power and Freedom Power. Each broker manages its own risk and .001 % of cost. Towns have no responsibility in funds.

Mr. Looney distributed Samuel Golding's speech to Portsmouth.  
Broker Model supposedly buys wholesale power, so it is cheaper in the long run.

Mr. Bouchard commented that wholesale rates are not retail rates. Liberty has about a 12% markup. Liberty goes through a broker to buy power and makes money through distribution and transmission.  
Cost of power plus the cost of business plus the risk of doing business are all factored into rates.

Mr. Grenier ask if Liberty has a 12% markup on wholesale, will CPCNH be lower than our default rate of 8%? In three years with a reserve fund in place, could we lower our rates?

Could we have our own power generation? Lebanon has a solar farm and a bio generation plant. Hanover has a solar farm. Peterborough may have a solar farm.

Could we build our own power plant?

Our survey of residents reported 50% of those responding want cheaper power; 50% want greener power.

The Committee then reviewed changes to the Electric Aggregation Plan. Mr. Looney discussed the following sections:

Page 7: Plan needs PUC approval. Mr. Grenier asked is we are effectively still under the PUC? Mr. Bouchard responded that the PUC will be replaced with a Department of Energy.

Page 9: After PUC adopts rules and opens market, Coalition will launch Walpole Community Power

Page 13: Cost effective local programs provide new retail products and services that enable customers to:

\_Intelligently moderate their use of electricity from the grid during times of high wholesale power prices and when the physical grid is constrained (at-risk of not being able to deliver enough power to meet all customers” usage requirements during the hours of “real demand”).

-Increase their use of electricity from the grid when wholesale prices are relatively low, and the physical grid is not constrained.

Page 13: As Walpole Community Power accrues financial reserves, the Coalition will be able to facilitate additional ways to lower costs, create new value, and further enhance the financial stability of the program. As one example, the accrual of sufficient reserves will allow Walpole Community Power to begin self-providing the collateral required for whole power market transactions and power purchase agreements. This will lower the capital costs and risk premiums otherwise embedded into the price of power contracts negotiated by the coalition.

Page 16: Walpole’s Policy Goals

The overall goal of community power aggregation is to harness the power of competitive markets and community-scale purchasing of electricity to reduce costs, increase supply options, enable grater customer choice, and provide services to enhance the lives of customers.

We agreed at our last meeting to include the following Power Objectives:

\_Competitive Rates and Expanded Choices: Walpole Community Power will only launch if it is able to initially offer residential default rates that are lower than or competitive with those

offered by Liberty, and will additionally offer optional products, such as supply options with higher and lower levels of renewable energy and time-varying rates that enable the intelligent use of customer energy technology.

-Fiscal Stability and Financial Reserves: Walpole Community Power will adopt an Energy Risk Management Policy and deposit a portion of revenues into a reserve fund to ensure that the program remains able to offer competitive rates as market prices fluctuate over time- and therefore able to achieve Walpole's policy goals (such as development of local energy resources and programs).

\_ Consumer Protections & Public Advocacy: Walpole Community Power will ensure that the contracts entered on behalf of customers are fair and represent the interests of Walpole and the customers at the Legislature and Utility regulatory Commission on matters pertaining to Community Power, ratepayer protection and the creation of a more competitive efficient, and clean energy market for New Hampshire.

-Regional Collaborations: Walpole Community Power will collaborate with municipalities, other community power programs, and government agencies to jointly develop cost-effective local renewable generation and storage projects electric vehicle transit fleets and charging corridors, and other clean energy infrastructure developments.

-Grid Modernization: Walpole Community Power will join other community power programs to advocate for policies, regulations, and infrastructure investments such as the widespread deployment of interval meters and other Smart Grid infrastructure technologies necessary to enable innovative customer services and the intelligent use of new clean technologies, cost-effective integration of local and regional renewable generation and the reliable operation of customer and community owned microgrids and utilities grid.

Page 18: The left-hand column in the chart which is headed DEFAULT SERVICE will be eliminated.

Page 19: Eliminate

The Committee then raised the following questions: Should we talk to Standard, Freedom, and/or Consolidated Communications?

Mr. Bouchard offered to produce some questions to ask these energy groups.

California power programs are going well.  
Massachusetts programs are run by the State.  
Cape Cod has a wind farm.  
CT – has Community Power.

We agreed to ask the CPC to join us in another meeting.

We have many questions about Net Metering on page 24.

What are the implications of the pre-2017 net metering agreements?

Liberty gives a certain fee for power reduced – 1 % off other fees.

Power is most expensive between 3 pm- 8 pm.

The Committee will ask Lisa Sweet to attend a meeting December 13, 2021, 6:30 at Town Hall.

Mr. Grenier asked how farmers who are all on lower rates will be affected by community power. Tom Beaudry sells his excess electricity to Tom Sawyer for Crescent View Farms. Ken Burns produces enough electricity through his solar field for all his business properties.

The Committee adjourned at about 7:45 pm