

WALPOLE POWER COMMITTEE
MINUTES
August 24, 2022

Paul Looney called the Walpole Power Committee to order at 6:30 pm on August 24, 2022, in the office of the Walpole Selectboard. Present, in addition to Mr. Looney were Andrew Dey, Dennis Marcom, Rod Bouchard and Peggy Pschirrer. Absent were Steve Grenier, Patrick Kiniry and Peter Dexter.

Mr. Looney mentioned there are three vendors for power in the State of New Hampshire: Standard, Freedom and the New Hampshire Cooperative. Each uses a Broker model. NH Coop is a non-profit that beats the other two.

CPCNH, of which we are a member, has not been done in New Hampshire before. Mr. Dey is dubious about its future. He stated he would feel better if we were going with a tried-and-true model.

The City of Keene is going with Standard Power.

When the PUC passes our EAP, then we will issue RFPs with three vendors and choose one for the town.

CPCNH has an agreement with Ascend Analytics to handle credit when CPCNH starts. There will be a two-month lag before any money comes in.

CPCNH now has 21 member towns. And many more are making inquiries. The State of California which has its own version of CPCNH suggested starting small. CPCNH will first start a reserve fund for themselves then establish reserve funds for individual towns.

Cheshire County has its own program; small towns are contacting the county. Walpole could also sign on to Cheshire county's EAP or could sign on as individuals.

Mr. Looney has provided electrical stats to Mr. Nuru of Revision who is drawing up a plan for the Recycling Center solar project. Once we have that plan Mr. Looney would like to schedule a meeting with Ben Davis, Fritz Till, and others who joined us earlier this summer at a meeting at the Recycling Center. Mr. Nuru from Revision would be present to discuss Revisions' proposal. Mr. Looney indicate if that plan is to go forward, a Chair must be found.

Mr. Looney, Mr. Marcom, and Ms. Pschirrer will meet by Zoom with Mitzi Sinsigalli from USDA on August 31st at 11:00 am to discuss potential funders for our solar projects.

A brief discussion was held of the cost of three phase power. On the internet it appears that the cost is only nine dollars a square foot. However, the power company charges significantly more because they add upgrade costs for all their equipment on the route for three phase power. We must ask if the new infrastructure bill will include money for three phase power.

Mr. Robert Boylan, who lives on Wentworth Road, has called to inquire about our solar plans. He works for Norwich Solar Power and would like to meet with the committee. His company did the Charlestown solar field.

Solar Dave of Westmoreland has installed several solar systems for individuals in Walpole. He has commented that it is easier to install community power in Vermont, than New Hampshire, because New Hampshire has more detailed requirements.

The Committee will meet again soon to discuss the solar plans as well as approve the amendments to the EAP so that it can be sent to the PUC for approval.