

WALPOLE POWER COMMITTEE
MINUTES
JANUARY 4, 2023

Paul Looney, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Present in person were Kara Dexter, Zoom manager; Peggy Pschirrer, Dennis Marcom, Peter Dexter. On Zoom were Andrew Dey and Henry Herndon representing CPCNH.

The Cost Sharing Agreement of CPCNH is the topic of tonight's meeting. It is separated into two parts. The Selectboard will be asked to sign the cost sharing agreement which will spread costs evenly over a five-year period of implementation. The second section is a service bundle agreement also to be signed by the Selectboard. Every committee member has a copy of each of these documents.

The Committee moved and seconded a motion to recommend the Selectboard sign both parts of the agreement.

There are currently 27 Communities who are members of CPCNH. The CPCNH Board will meet January 30, 2023, to discuss procurement; Walpole will be represented by Paul Looney and Dennis Marcom who will be appointed by the Selectboard.

The Energy Aggregation Act (1) Must be amended
(2) The Cost Sharing approved
(3) Must complete Service Bundle, Member Services Contract
(4) Data Security and Privacy Energy Management, Retail rates and Financial Reserves

Committee will choose either Granite Basic or Granite Plus – see page 26 of Cost Sharing Agreement.

The Decision to procure will be made January 30. Then the Risk Committee will choose rates and present them to the CPCNH Board of Directors.

The Selectboard will choose the authorized officer to participate in the January 30 meeting. The Committee unanimously recommends Paul Looney and Dennis Marcom.

Andrew Dey asked who is the CEO of CPCNH? True Search, a search firm, will have a CEO to recommend by February or March; in the meantime, Clifton Below will act as CEO in the absence of a CEO.

Reserve Accounts for member towns will be tracked so that if the Town decides to leave CPCNH you will have reserves in cash. If we are above a maximum reserve account, we can choose how to use excess in account.

Eversource, Liberty, Unitil, and NHEC are all delivering electricity. NH Electric Coop is the only non-profit of that group. It is cheaper than Liberty or Eversource because transmission and delivery costs are less.

CPCNH is building for the future. It will have discounts for utility rates. Towns are moving toward CPCNH. For instance, Peterborough has decided to go with CPCNH rather than a Broker. CPCNH has the ability to adjust over time. Walpole is part of the Wave 1 Towns because we joined CPCNH early. Westmoreland has just joined, and Nashua has just submitted its EAP to the PUC.

Andrew Dey moved that we stay with CPCNH rather than one of the Brokers. Such as Standard or Freedom. The group agreed unanimously.

The Zoom meeting ended at 7:02 and Henry Herndon moved on to another meeting.

Paul Looney moved, and Dennis Marcom seconded that the Power Committee recommend that the Selectboard approve and sign the Cost Sharing Agreement and the Member Services Contract for the Complete Services Bundle.

The Power Committee also moved that Paul Looney and Dennis Marcom be authorized to act on behalf of the Committee.

Peter Dexter urged Paul and Dennis to approve the Granite Basic, the lowest rate with the opportunity for individuals to move up to Granite Plus if they wish to.

CPCNH will know the rate in February.

The Committee will have a meeting on January 23 with Northern Borders to discuss a solar project for the Recycling Center. Ted Fellows and Annette Dey have both examined the roof on the Recycling Center and believe it to look good but given its age, it would be best to replace it.

A community solar field could have 400 panels. Mr. Kingsbury suggested he might have an available field. Norwich Solar's web page has good information about community solar fields. In Charlestown, the Hanover field has 400 panels owned by 19 people.

Peter Dexter asked why we couldn't have several solar fields.

We need to speak to several solar installers including Solar Dave.

When CPCNH is introduced everyone in Town will automatically be enrolled unless an individual opts out. Walpole as a Town has a contract with a Texas company which will expire in 2024.

Several meetings will be scheduled in February. A calendar will be sent as soon as possible.