

## **Kensington Energy Committee Minutes November 14, 2023**

**1. Call to Order and Attendance:** The Energy Committee meeting was called to order at 1:35 pm. KEC Chair Zeke Schmois, Members Charlie Horn (via Zoom due to illness), Joni Praded, Steve Sniderman, Bart Wu, and Select Board representative Robert Gustafson were in attendance.

**2. Minutes Approved:** The draft minutes from the October 17, 2023 meeting were approved.

**3. Update on status of Kensington Community Power:** The Board of Selectmen signed the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH) Joint Powers Agreement on October 30, 2023. More details about the status and next steps for the Kensington community power initiative will be held immediately following this meeting at the Kensington Community Power Committee meeting.

### **4. Report from Clean Energy New Hampshire's Local Energy Solutions (LES)**

**Conference:** ZSchmois and CHorn attended this year's LES conference on November 2 in Manchester. The keynote speaker was from The U.S. Department of Energy and she spoke about the promise and challenges of virtual power plants for a more reliable, affordable, and sustainable power grid, and potentially replacing older, dirtier peaker plants. There were multiple breakout sessions morning and afternoon on various topics such as clean energy planning, progress and best practices, and legislative initiatives. The plenary session provided an update and overview of the funding and rebates available under the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law as they mark their first year since enactment. CHorn will share the email with conference materials with other KEC members.

Discussion was had about the need to develop a budget to cover expenses involved in attending this annual conference, as well as other KEC expenses. The timing for submitting a budget is January/February. JPradad and BWu volunteered to look at budgets from Stratham and Exeter respectively and report back to the next KEC meeting.

**5. Next Steps for KEC:** There was consensus that this committee needs to act quickly to develop a campaign to present to the Board with information about incentives and rebates for energy and money saving technologies. This information can be disseminated via the Kensington Connects Facebook page as well as the community newsletter, the Town website, and other media such as the local newspaper, the Carriage Town News.

ZSchmois will set up a Facebook page for the KEC. He described a site called Loom that will enable us to make a short video and embed it into a written piece where it can be accessed whether it is on social media or a hard copy such as the newsletter. He will demo Loom at the next meeting.

Committee members listed the following topics to be included in the campaign and volunteered to draft a short article for the next meeting describing the technology and the incentives available.

1. Heat pumps: SSniderman will focus on hot water heater heat pumps.
2. Air source heat pumps:
3. Geothermal heat pumps: CHorn
4. Solar panels and batteries: SVarn
5. Electric Vehicles: ZSchmois
6. Biomass: JPraded
7. Energy Saving Appliances:
8. Insulation:

Another area that needs to be pursued is replacing the Town's lightbulbs and streetlights with LEDs. CHorn will contact Kathy at Town Hall to learn more about the possibility of obtaining a free audit from a company that has done this for several other NH towns.

**6. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm.

**Next meeting is December 12, 2023, 1:30 pm, Town Hall**

Submitted by Charlie Horn