

**Kensington Community Power Committee
Draft Minutes
Wednesday, October 25, 2023**

In Attendance: Committee members Zeke Schmois and Charlie Horn. Bob Gustafson joined the meeting in progress. Bart Wu and Steve Sniderman from the Kensington Energy Committee (KEC) were also in attendance.

The first meeting of the Kensington Community Power Committee (KCPC) was called to order by Zeke Schmois at 1:32 pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to consider making a decision regarding which community power company to recommend to the Board of Selectmen. The decision will be based on the data the Kensington Energy Committee accumulated during the past few months. Once a recommendation is determined, the KCPC will work on the presentation to the Select Board at its meeting on Monday, October 30, 2023.

The KCPC reviewed two companies that presented to the Kensington Energy Committee: Standard Power (SP); and, Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH).

These companies represent two models of power suppliers currently providing community power. Standard Power is a for-profit third party broker and Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire is a not-for-profit 501(c)(4) coalition of members in New Hampshire.

KCPC evaluated the companies in five areas listed below.

Rates: Overall the rates of the CPCNH have been slightly lower than those of Standard Power. Both companies' rates are significantly lower than Unitil's. SP's contract term is 2-3 years and may provide some protection against price fluctuations. CPCNH's rates are established every six months, in line with the utility's timeframe. CPCNH also has a reserve fund built into its program, which will be used to offset the effects of price fluctuations in the energy market.

Corporate structure: CPCNH is a not-for-profit entity with its Board made up of representatives from member towns. Part of the rate it charges to customers will go into the reserve fund. SP is a for-profit third party energy broker. Its rates reflect not only its overhead but also funds paid out to shareholders.

Support and Customer Outreach: CPCNH provides assistance with no upfront costs to member towns throughout the legal, planning and educational outreach processes required to become a community power town. They also provide customer service to assist with any issues that may arise during the transition to and implementation of community power. Costs are recovered post-launch through revenues from electricity sales.

SP allocates no funds to support towns with the process but the town contracts with SP as a community power consultant to assist with the work. There are no upfront costs to the town. Consultant services are funded through a per kilowatt hour implementation fee.

Renewable Energy: Both companies provide substantially similar tiers of renewable energy content. CPCNH's reserve fund will potentially provide funding for more local renewable energy projects.

Leader in the Market: Since the advent of community power in NH, CPCNH has become the leading community power company in NH and as of June 30, 2023, the Coalition is made up of thirty-five municipalities and one county member, representing almost 23 per cent of the state's population. SP has signed on approximately 11 towns and cities.

After discussion of the pros and cons of each company a motion was made by CHorn to recommend CPCNH to the Board of Selectmen at its next meeting. ZSchmois seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. ZSchmois will put together a presentation to the Board for the recommendation.

The Board will also be asked to review and adopt the CPCNH Joint Powers Agreement. ZSchmois will provide the Select Board with a copy of the Agreement prior to the meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 pm.

Submitted by Charlie Horn