

Kensington Energy Committee Minutes

January 16, 2024

1. Call to Order and Attendance: Kensington Energy Committee (KEC) meeting called to order at 1:39 pm. Chair Zeke Schmois, members Steve Sniderman, and Select Board representative Robert Gustafson in attendance, with Charlie Horn, Joni Praded, Susan Varn, and Bart Wu attending via Zoom due to illness or travel.

2. Minutes Approved: Draft minutes from the December 12, 2023 meeting were approved.

3. Community Power Committee (CPC) Update: ZSchmois reported good progress with community power. Our Electric Aggregation Plan (EAP) was submitted to and approved by the Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH), and subsequently submitted to and approved by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Our EAP is now on the PUC's website for public comment, and also on the Kensington town website.

The Warrant Article asking residents to approve Kensington's participation in community power will be discussed at the town's Deliberative Session February 7. The CPC will field residents' questions about the proposal at that meeting. ZSchmois will ask Harold Bragg if it's possible to participate remotely, since CPC member BWu will be away.

After the Deliberative Session, the CPC and Board of Selectmen will review the proposed cost-sharing agreement with our prospective partner, the Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH). If community power is approved at Town Meeting, the town must quickly sign that agreement to stay on schedule for a 2024 launch.

4. Public Education about Community Power

The Community News will carry a KEC update on the community power initiative and other KEC activities in its Feb/Mar edition. If it is approved at Town Meeting and our CPCNH relationship is formalized, CPCNH will assist with our ongoing outreach. JPraded said the KEC's proposed budget includes money for a postcard mailing to 800 Kensington households. She and SVarn will develop the postcard, taking advantage of material generated by other towns participating in community power. We will continue to develop a promotional plan at our next meeting.

5. Kensington Energy Committee Budget

JPraded developed a \$1,200 budget for KEC. It includes a \$500 membership in Clean Energy NH (CENH) for all 7 committee members. ZSchmois will ask Kathy Felch if KEC can establish its CENH membership soon, so we can each create individual accounts and access benefits.

6. KEC Video Presentations

ZSchmois is producing an introduction to the short videos on energy upgrades that KEC members will develop and post. At KEC's November 14, 2023 meeting, video topics and responsibility were drafted:

1. Hot water heat pumps: SSniderman
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:

KEC members are encouraged to share and provide feedback to one another on their scripts. ZSchmois proposed working in small groups on successive videos, beginning with Steve and Charlie next week, then continuing with JPraded and SVarn. RGustafson stressed that these work groups need to be publicized and the public invited.

7. Electric Vehicle Event

KEC will explore partnering with Alnoba to conduct an EV public event/demo at the Farm at Eastman's Corner this spring.

8. Assorted

1. How to ensure KEC emails go out to all members
2. A master calendar or other way to keep others aware of our availability
3. ZSchmois is writing a summary of KEC's 2023 accomplishments and goals

9. Adjournment 2:34

10. Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 1:30 Kensington Town Hall

Submitted by Susan Varn