

Kensington Energy Committee July 11, 2023 Minutes

The Kensington Energy Committee meeting was called to order at 1:32 pm.

In attendance: Zeke Schmois, Susan Varn, Charlie Horn and Select Board member Robert Gustafson.

1. Scheduling meetings:

Regular meetings will be held the second Tuesday of each month at 1:30 pm at Kensington Town Hall.

Special (or ad hoc) meetings will be organized using a scheduling tool that Zeke will send out to members.

Zeke will coordinate with Town Hall staff to ensure that meetings, agendas and minutes are properly noticed and posted on the Kensington Energy Committee website.

2. Community Power Programs:

Zeke will continue to try to coordinate a meeting with Community Coalition Power. He will also reach out to Freedom Power. Robert stated that it is important for the Committee to ask each company the same questions. He advised the Committee to interview three companies. The companies should be asked about rates, the length of contract, net metering, any surcharges, and whether they offer any special benefits for the Town.

Susan will reach out to Unitil to identify to whom to speak about Unitil's position regarding community power program.

There was discussion about reaching out to customers for their experiences and soliciting feedback from other towns that are currently enrolled in a community power program.

Once the Committee has information on each company, it will meet to discuss the programs and write up a comparison to present to the Board of Selectmen.

3. Committee Group e-mail:

Zeke will give the Committee access to the official Kensington Energy Committee e-mail: kensington.town.energy@gmail.com

The Committee should use this for all official Committee correspondence.

4. Upcoming Projects:

Several projects were introduced and discussion will continue at the next meeting.

- Building Audits: Zeke suggested that the Committee could do an unofficial audit of Town buildings.
- Educational Information: The Committee discussed developing educational brochures, either its own or based on what other groups have already developed. Zeke will reach out to other towns for examples.
- Office Hours: Zeke offered to hold office hours at Town Hall to help residents with energy saving projects. An “Ask the Energy Committee” site is another way the Committee could serve to assist residents.
- Town Newsletter and Kensington Connects Facebook posts: Educational information should be posted in the Town newsletter and on Kensington Connects about the Committee and energy saving resources, including incentives and rebates in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA). Postings should include an invitation to apply to fill the two open positions on the Committee and an invitation to attend Committee meetings.

Susan will find out the deadline for the newsletter.

Zeke will reach out to Katrin at Clean Energy New Hampshire regarding a potential speaker at the Grange on energy saving programs.

5. Updates:

Zeke reported that Tesla’s chargers are now the North American Charging Standard (NACS) port and will become the standard charger for new electric vehicles. This should reduce range anxiety for non-Tesla EV drivers.

6. Next Regular Meeting:

Tuesday, August 8, 1:30 pm at Town Hall.

Zeke will circulate a draft agenda before the meeting to include: Community Power; Educational Brochures; and, Message for the Town.

7. Minutes Approved:

The draft minutes from the June 13, 2023 meeting were approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:24 pm.

Submitted by,

Charlie Horn

