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TOWN OF BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Minutes *Energy Committee* *May 17, 2022*

Committee members present at the meeting: Brendan Denehy, Tracy Perry, Chris Koffler, Jan Reimers, and Tad Putney.

Brendan called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Introductions

All members introduced themselves.

Review Committee Charter

Members reviewed the committee charter and timing requirements.

Election of Officers

Brendan was elected Chair by a vote of 5-0.

Jan was elected Vice-Chair by a vote of 5-0.

The Town Administrator, **Tad** for now, was elected Secretary by a vote of 5-0.

Review of EEI's Energy Audit Report from 2021

Tad reviewed with members the report EEI provided to the town following its energy audit of town buildings during 2021. Members reviewed the recommended energy efficiency projects noted in the report. **Tad** said the Town was already pursuing the conversion of LED lighting at the Library this year. **Chris** said that “hybrid heat pumps” for hot water may be an option we should consider. **Tad** noted we have received an estimate to replace the boiler in the Town Hall for about \$15,000, which is well below the \$95,000 noted in the EEI report. He suggested we may want to invite **Kevin** from Absolute Mechanical to a future meeting to speak on any alternatives we are considering. Members identified questions for EEI, including:

- Why is the \$95,000 cost for the Town Hall boiler is so high?
- If we wanted to go “all electric” for the Town Hall, what amount of electricity would be needed and how much would we need to generate to cover it? The same question could be asked across all Town buildings.

Energy Committee Minutes

May 17, 2022

Page 2

- Were the payback time periods based on what were then current costs? Can we consider determining payback “ranges” based on a range of future cost assumptions for electricity, oil, and propane.
- What is EEI’s assumed size of the Safety Complex solar panels (kilowatts)?
- What are the pros and cons of leasing versus owning solar panels?
- How much has solar changed in the past few years (in terms of reduction of costs and advances in technology)?
- What is EEI’s role in these projects? How does it make its money?

Members agreed it to ask an EEI representative to attend our next meeting.

Next Meeting

Members agreed to seek three potential meeting dates from EEI and then set our next meeting date based on them. Members also agreed to send questions to **Tad**, so he could provide them to EEI in advance of the meeting. It was noted that Tuesdays, Wednesdays and alternate Thursdays are generally good evenings for members to meet. Members also agreed to discuss the frequency of committee meetings at the next meeting in order to ensure we meet the charter’s timeline for deliverables.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23pm.

Minutes submitted by Tad Putney