

Telephone (603) 673-8855, ext. 213 Fax (603) 673-8136

TOWN OF BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE ENERGY COMMITTEE

P.O. BOX 360 – 1 Main Street BROOKLINE, NH 03033-0360

http://www.brooklinenh.us

Energy Committee Meeting Minutes July 6, 2023

Committee members present at the meeting: Brendan Denehy, Jan Reimers, Chris Koffler, Ian Murphy, Graham Loff and Town Administrator Scott Butcher.

Brendan called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Reorganization of Committee and Appoint Officers

The Committee members agreed to hold the following positions:

Brendan Denehy – Chair

Chris Koffler – Vice Chair

Ian Murphy – Secretary

Review 2022 Goals & Accomplishments

Brendan discussed the completion of the lighting projects at the Fire Station and Library. **Graham** asked about consideration of other LED lighting projects similar to those and the streetlights. The discussion was about retrofitting the Town Hall with LED interior lighting. **Brendan** also talked about the recent replacement of the oil burner with a more efficient propane unit as recommended by the Committee. He also discussed the second phase currently being implemented to replace the old air conditioning units with heat pumps for even more efficiencies.

Fire Station Solar Project

The Committee discussed the upcoming solar panel installation on the Fire Station rooftop. **Brendan** recapped the Selectboard approval of using ARAP funds to pay for the project and that EEI Systems had partnered with 603Solar for the installation. EEI had some delays in coordinating resources but expected the project to be complete sometime in September. **Ian** explained interconnection process for the solar panels install.

Discussion about 2023 Goals

Jan talked about the Community Power initiatives and how that would work. How do we get residents to sign up for it? What happens if someone wants to stay with Eversource? He had heard that if you have solar panels you have to keep Eversource as your supplier.

Graham said looking at future projects from a Finance Committee perspective means taking return on investment (RIO) or payback into consideration before considering a project. He feels that to go "green" means getting paid "green". **Chris** stated that one of the Committee's goals is to minimize cost while becoming carbon neutral and considering sustainability. **Brendan** said the Committee can define its goals and role to the Selectboard. He added that using the Master Plan update process as an opportunity to include energy-related projects and sustainability into the visioning process.

Graham said that the Committee should also focus on operational and education initiatives to help residents make good choices with regard to energy and the using less is better. **Chris** added that teaching people to "pull your own weight" when it comes to energy initiatives and adoption. **Graham** talked about requiring LEEDS certification for new construction in town. **Brendan** said the energy audit that EEI Systems produced should be reviewed again by the Committee.

Minutes

Chris moved to accept the minutes from the December 8th meeting. **Jan** seconded the motion. The vote to accept was 3-0 with two abstentions.

Next Steps

Brendan recommended continuing the discussion about 2023 goals at the August meeting. He also thought it would be good to invite the Hollis Energy Committee to the September meeting to share their knowledge and successes

Jan moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm. It was seconded by **Ian**. The vote was unanimous.

Minutes submitted by Scott Butcher.