

Center Harbor Energy Committee *FINAL* Minutes of Meeting – 16 Jan 2020

Attendees: Carol Sullivan, Chris Williams, Bernie Volz, Annette Nichols and Selectmen Representative Richard Drenkhahn.

Carol called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The minutes of the meeting of November 21st were approved as amended. Richard moved to accept as amended; Annette seconded.

2019 Annual Report. There was a discussion to finalize the 2019 CHEC Activities as part of the Annual Report. Carol will amend as discussed and issue for publication.

Recycling

PSU and LRPC Project. Plymouth State University and Lakes Region Planning Commission project have identified signage as an issue for several communities. They have drafted some suggestions for improvements, which were sent out separately to committee members. The PSU project is completed at this time.

Carol attended and reported on a January 2020 meeting with Tamworth and the Carroll County Commissioners to expand small town recycling efforts.

Municipal Action on Single Use Plastics and Plastic Reduction Ordinances.

Richard reported that the Select Board is not interested in supporting this as a local ordinance at this time.

Annette questioned how much the Energy committee should be getting involved in recycling efforts. There was some discussion. The committee agreed that although there are energy related impacts, we need to stay focused on core energy initiatives as a primary objective.

Benchmarking – Energy Use Database. Bernie has updated the database for fuel and electricity and uploaded the data. 2018 shows a higher electricity usage. The usage over the last several years shows usage being relatively stable, with 2019 likely being the lowest electricity usage in the Town for the last 5 years.

Richard advised that there have been ongoing issues with the Town Hall heating system, but the original contractor replaced much of the system in the last couple of months at no cost to the Town.

Bernie suggested that the Town request the utility change the billing so that all accounts are billed the same over the same period. He will contact Robin to discuss.

Clean Energy NH – Local Energy Solutions (LES)

Carol attended a Jan 10 virtual meeting for SB 286 (Community Power) in NH (municipal aggregation). She identified that predominantly larger communities are interested in becoming early adopters.

PAREI had a similar meeting with LES, and are communicating the initiative with other towns in the area.

Annette and Carol attended Meredith Energy Committee's Dec 12 meeting. They had speakers from Citizen's Climate Lobby proposing a basis for a carbon fee and dividend warrant article; and a conference call with Standard Power of Nashua, one of several firms who are offering services as part of the Community Power approved bill.

The Standard Power presentation was not compelling to either the Center Harbor or the Meredith Energy Committee members. Many of the services they provide, including the installation of smart metering and peak demand notifications are services already provided by NHEC.

Bernie had some skepticism about any of these offerings, as they all take a portion of the savings to pay for their service. Carol identified that while most interested towns in the virtual meeting are larger, she identified Bristol as a pending interested local town who may be interested in being an early adopter. The committee questioned if many of the Bristol residents have other energy suppliers who are not NHEC customers. She will contact the chair of Bristol's energy group for followup.

There was a limited discussion re the 2020 goals and committee ETF warrant request.

Chris moved to adjourn the meeting; Annette seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 20th, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Annette Nichols, January 21, 2020