

## **Center Harbor Energy Committee**

Minutes of Meeting – March 20, 2023

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

Carol called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

### **On-Going Business**

#### **Review and approval of January and February minutes**

Bernie moved to accept the minutes of the January and February meetings as amended. Richard seconded.

#### **Swearing in of CHEC Members**

Richard reminded Committee members that before they could be sworn in, they had to be appointed by the Select Board. He said that the Select Board would appoint members at the 3/22/23 Select Board meeting. Then members could stop by the Municipal Building to be sworn in by Mary, or wait until the next CHEC meeting. Bernie and Carol agreed to a 3 year commitment to the Committee and Chris agreed to two years.

#### **Potential Solar project for behind municipal building**

Bernie gave a presentation on the solar project at the March 15th Town Meeting. No agreement was reached to increase the CHEC budget from \$1 to \$50,000. It was decided to revisit this issue more thoroughly at a special, later town meeting. The committee discussed next steps on this project. Bernie stated that an RFP needs to go out to solar contractors, including to Ted Vansant who has consulted with us on this project for no fee up to this time, and others. The RFP would ask contractors what they can build to meet the Town's goals in the given space and in keeping with the funding requirements (grant from the Federal Inflation Reduction Act - IRA). When we have an acceptable proposal, the Town will need to approve the full amount of the project since the rebate from the IRA will come at the end of the project. The committee also discussed the possible need for an RFP to surveyors since it has been hard to get responses from them so far. Bernie mentioned that he can talk to NHEC about this project. RFPs could be issued in June, with a requested response by September. Having the special town meeting in the Fall, might be better than Summer since residents are more likely to be on vacation in the Summer. Bernie

will begin work on RFPs and seek input from other committee members as needed.

Carol will further investigate other options for grants and funding sources

### **Fire Station Lighting and Heating**

Carol will talk to Fire Chief Tyler Driscoll to determine how he wants to proceed with the interior area heating and exterior lighting project, discussed with him and Bert Sutcliffe, Ecoelectric in Spring 2022.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Other Business**

#### **PAREI Update.**

In December 2022, PAREI sent out a newsletter - **Vision 2030 - Building a New Home for PAREI.** which thoroughly covered their move to their new location on Fairgrounds Rd in Plymouth. This project is expected to be completed in late Fall, 2023. This newsletter was forwarded to Committee members.

#### **Clean Energy NH Update.**

Clean Energy NH continues to serve its membership well by sending out frequent emails about changes within their organization, their role in educating members about legislation and through webinars on Clean Energy Topics. Carol has been forwarding these e-mails to Committee members.

#### **NH EEC Network Update**

Like CENH, the NH EEC Network works to promote efforts to improve the environment, clean energy and Climate issues through working with legislators and holding webinars for people in NH and beyond. Carol has been forwarding information of potential interest to Committee members.

Bernie moved to adjourn the meeting; Richard seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 17th, 2023.

Respectfully submitted on March 22, 2023, Carol Sullivan