

# **Center Harbor Energy Committee**

Minutes of Meeting – April 17, 2023

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

Carol called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

## **On-Going Business**

### **Review and approval of March minutes**

Bernie moved to accept the minutes of the March meeting. Carol seconded.

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

**Survey Work:** Bernie reported that he received an estimate of \$3,800 from Ames Associates for survey work for the solar project. This work would involve placing easily visible stakes and flags at lines and corners of the project and clarification of where we want to run lines from the arrays to the Municipal Building. Since we don't know how long the stakes might be in place before the project begins, we may want to use metal stakes instead of wood. Ames has been cooperative on this project. The cost of the survey work might be able to come out of the Energy Committee Trust Fund. The Select Board will need to approve the survey work, since the results of this Survey will factor in to future decisions about this project and will be incorporated into information given to Solar Contractors. Richard will present the Ames estimate at the Select Board meeting on Wednesday April 19.

**RFP:** Bernie completed the RFP for this project and emailed a version dated April 16 to the Energy Committee for comment. The Committee discussed and approved the RFP. Bernie made a few minor changes and will forward to Robin. Richard will share this with the Select Board on April 19.

**Other Funding Sources:** The Committee reviewed information about possible federal funding available for the solar project. The committee had received an email notification from the State of NH Department of Energy about Block Grant funds available to towns like Center Harbor from the US Department of Energy's Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG). The consensus was that with the information provided, the amount of time needed to apply for one of these grants could be costly. Carol has contacted several sources for more information. She will share any information she receives with the Committee so that a more informed decision can be made about whether to pursue these grants.

## **New Business**

There was no new business.

## **Other Business**

### **PAREI Update.**

No new news at this time from PAREI. Carol has a call in to Sandra Joes about the US Department of Energy's Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) to ask if PAREI and Solar Shares was going to try for one of these grants.

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

Clean Energy NH is sponsoring NH Energy Week from May 1 - 5, Co-sponsors include a variety of businesses and non-profits such as NHSaves, The Nature Conservancy, Revision Energy and Eversource. Carol had sent an email from CENH about this event recently. There will probably be materials of interest to us afterwards. Carol will follow up on this.

### **NH EEC Network Update**

The NH Environment, Energy and Climate Network is a statewide group of representatives from many towns and areas in New Hampshire. These representatives include professionals from a variety of areas - health care, scientists, teachers, state government, the arts, etc. The Network is tracking legislation in all of these areas and are promoting solutions to problems that are threatening the New Hampshire natural environment and its citizens. In addition, representatives from NH towns are involved in helping their towns introduce clean energy solutions and in applying for grants to pay for these projects.

Richard moved to adjourn the meeting. Bernie seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 15th, 2023.

Respectfully submitted on May 2, 2023, Carol Sullivan