

# Center Harbor Energy Committee February 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Carol Sullivan, Bernie Volz, Michael Rich, Selectmen  
Representative Richard Drenkhahn

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

## On-Going Business

### **Review and approval of Minutes from Energy Committee Meeting:**

Richard moved to approve the minutes of the November 2023 Energy Committee meeting. Bernie seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Preparation for the Solar Project Presentation at the aMarch 13th Annual Town Meeting**

Bernie said that we would not give another slide presentation at the Annual Town Meeting due to many topics being discussed and voted on at the meeting. Also the Committee had devoted three Public Hearings to the project in November and December of 2023 and in January of 2024, allowing town residents adequate time to learn about the project, ask questions and give input. The Committee also posted extensive information about the project on the town website.

As a hand-out for attendees at the Annual Meeting, Bernie created one-page that summarized the key-points of the slide presentation used in the Public Hearings. The Committee agreed that this hand-out was well done.

Bernie also published recent useful information about improved energy efficiency in the Energy Committee section of the Town website.

The committee briefly discussed the Federal and State rebates that would be available for this project if it was approved by the Town. We will need to wait to see if it is approved before we start applying for these rebates.

## New Business

Carol announced that as a member of the Squam Lakes Association (SLA) she was informed of a Waste-to-Energy Incineration Project being considered by the town of Ashland. The Conservation Director of the SLA (Cole Beale) was concerned about this project because of potential air-borne and ash pollution it could cause to Squam Lake and the Pemigawasset River, which flows into the Merrimack River. Mr. Beale also informed members of the SLA that the engineering company hired to propose and possibly carry out the project did not have previous

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experience doing this type of project. Sandra Jones of PAREI also worked with Ashland residents in testifying against this project. When a vote was taken on the Warrant Article, the amount requested was dropped from \$135M to \$1.00. There is a possibility that this project may resurface. The SLA will keep its members informed.

### **Other Business**

#### **PAREI Update**

The most recent Newsletter from PAREI was posted in the Energy Committee section of the Town website. It featured information about its new headquarters in Plymouth and about the recently completed Solar Shares project in Center Harbor. A separate announcement from PAREI about Button-up Workshops was also posted there.

#### **CleanEnergyNH Updates**

CleanEnergyNH published a newsletter celebrating its 20th Anniversary. They announced they had received an award from Citizens Bank as a Champion in Action in their effort to ensure the decarbonization of the state's energy system by 2050. They are expanding their Energy Circuit Rider Program and have made available recordings from their October 2023 Local energy Solutions Conference. Their newsletter was shared with Energy Committee members.

#### **NH Environment Energy and Climate Network**

The NH Environment, Energy and Climate Network now has five Working Groups - a new Environment group, an Energy group, a Climate group, a Plastics group and a Communications group. In addition, there is a Steering Committee. Most of the working groups are concentrating on issues their communities are facing as well as on legislation that they hope volunteers can influence within the state.

Bernie moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm. Richard seconded. Meeting was adjourned at that time. The next Energy Committee meeting will be on March 18th.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Sullivan