

**Draft Tamworth Energy Committee (TEC) Minutes**  
**March 18, 2024, Cook Memorial Library, 3:00 pm**

**Call to Order:** 3:05

**Present:** Gabrielle Watson John Kumm, Ellen Farnum, Ted Morgan  
David Kunhardt (remote).

**1. Approve Minutes from 2-26-24 and 3-4-24.**

Minutes unanimously approved.

**2. Community Power: Discussion: Town Meeting**

TEC members discussed the successful vote at Tamworth Town Meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Providing voters with information ahead of time was helpful. TEC utilized the following:

- Public Meetings,
- Tamworth Exchange,
- informational handouts available at the library and town office, and at Town Meeting and at town events prior to the vote.
- Conway Daily Sun article and interview were particularly successful.

**Next Steps:**

- a. Gabrielle will attend the next Selectboard meeting on March 21. The selectboard will need to sign and submit the Member Service Contract documents and authorize Keats to sign future documents or paperwork.
- b. Plan Public Informational Meeting on **May 7<sup>th</sup>**.  
TEC will plan to hold this event at either Union Hall or the Town House. A zoom option will be offered. TEC will offer a ten-minute presentation followed by an opportunity for the public to answer questions. We will refer to the CPCNH 'Frequently Asked Questions' to help prepare, also print out FAQ handouts. We should be ready to answer questions on Net Metering, how CPCNH pays staff (percentage charged on KWH price?) Opt-in policy and timing for launching program. (Enrollment letters sent April 26<sup>th</sup>, Enrollment opens June 3<sup>rd</sup>, program launches with all enrolled June 30<sup>th</sup>, customers see first new bill in July.)

**Publicity:** Suggestion to publicize the May 7<sup>th</sup> date in the CPCNH enrollment letter.

To Do:

**Gabrielle:**

- ~Attend Selectboard Meeting on March 21, 2024
- ~Contact CPCNH and ask them to publicize the informational meeting when they send out letters.

**Ted:**

- ~Reserve either Union Hall or Tamworth Town House for the informational meeting.

**3. Update on EV Expo:**

- Ted has consulted with CMS representative Zach Hewson. They have insurance waiver forms that we can potentially use but will need to check with lawyers to make sure these will meet our needs. Ted has an appointment to visit CMS on March 19<sup>th</sup> and will report back about how many cars can drive in a lap and how many laps we can expect to do in an hour. He will also gather info on the staging areas and the showcase area. Ted will also ask about the catered food service CMS frequently uses.
- Ted has already posted a SAVE THE DATE notice on the Tamworth Exchange.
- Gabrielle has created a spreadsheet for recording the EV vehicles that will participate in our Expo. TEC members should update this spreadsheet.  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1rWSH1UZILweOSQvOJyxSNXv5t5nMkHi7bqS0TkUyzq0/edit#gid=0>
- TEC discussed food for the event.
- TEC discussed asking Energy Committees in other towns to help sponsor this event. Ted suggested pursuing widespread publicity for the event throughout the region.
- TEC cannot hold a raffle and collect money at this event.
- For inspiration, West Lebanon's Earth Day EV Expo:  
<https://driveelectricearthmonth.org/event?eventid=4141>

To Do:

**Gabrielle:**

- ~ Contact Chevy in North Conway and Plymouth NuCar
- ~Mary Cronin's husband to see if he will display his EV pickup,

- ~Inquire about a food truck.
- ~ Design a poster for the EV event
- ~ Follow up with NH Drive Electric for literature on EVs.
- ~ With Ted, Contact the Moultonborough Energy group to see if they would like to be co-sponsors.
- ~Post on Tamworth Exchange to ask if private citizens would like to display their EVs. Can we find other private citizens to display Classic vehicles?

**John:**

Follow up with Grappone,

**Ted:**

- ~Visit CMS on March 19th
- ~Contact Capital City Kia in Concord and Bill Dodge Kia in Westbook ME and look for additional Hyundai dealers.
- ~ With Gabrielle, Contact the Moultonborough Energy group to see if they would like to be sponsors.

**Ellen:**

- ~ Follow up with Irwin Motors, Russ Lanoie.
- ~ Post Save the Date on SandwichBoard.

#### **4. Update on Brett School Energy Audit Report.**

John reported that he is still waiting to hear back from the Eversource contact about the existing HVAC project at the school. If he doesn't hear from them this week he will reach out to follow-up. Once the earlier energy savings evaluation associated with the HVAC project and the November 2023 audit findings are reconciled, he will schedule a meeting with management at the school.

#### **5. Town Office:**

Gabrielle reported that funds were approved to do the insulation upgrade on the Town Office. She recommended that we look at installing a heat Pump HVAC system later as the current system is still functional. (It was installed in 2017.). Gabrielle will ask Keats if we should recommend putting funds in the Capital Improvement Plan to help budget for this future expense.

#### **6. Solar Power Survey and Next Steps:**

CPCNH has sent TEC a survey request asking detailed questions about potential solar array plans.

**Discussion:**

Tamworth currently uses a total of 17,200 Mwh annually. David has offered to contact ReVision Energy and ECA Solar to find out how they are progressing, and to see if they are still interested in entering into a net energy billing agreement with the town of Tamworth that would provide rebate funds to the town based on the amount of energy used by Tamworth Municipal Buildings through the connected utility Eversource. (Recent legislation HB 281 passed in the state of NH in August of 2023 allows companies like ECA and ReVision Energy to develop Community Solar Farms in Eversource Territory and provide energy for towns outside of the municipality's boundaries.) A newly developed solar farm managed by one of these companies would generate power to the electrical grid and generate credits with Eversource. The town of Tamworth would not need to raise funds to build its own facility or maintain the facility. Tamworth could potentially see a 10% savings or more.

At this time, there is not suitable Town owned land available to build a solar array, so contracting with one of these companies would seem to be our best option. Contracting with one of these companies would not eliminate the possibility of building a solar array on town owned land at some future date. TEC will review this topic at our next meeting. We hope to make a recommendation to the Selectboard soon.

David also reported on a successful solar farm Net Billing program in Maine.

**Next Meeting:** April 1, 2024, Cook Memorial Library 3:00 pm

**Meeting Adjourned:** 4:37

Minutes: E Farnum