

Tamworth Energy Committee
March 30, 2023
Tamworth Town House

Call to Order: 10:05

Present: Ted Morgan, Gabrielle Watson, Ellen Farnum

Updates: Ted has a meeting set up on April 18th with Mary Cronin and the Library Building Committee to discuss renovations.

Discussion: Gabrielle shared the library energy audit report (on Tamworth Energy Committee google site,) and her communication with Margaret Dillon (Ms. Dillon is an expert on energy audits on historic buildings).

(Ted will attend meeting)

Review and accept minutes from March 2, 2023

Motion: Gabrielle W., Second: Ted M., **Vote:** unanimous

Discussion of Tamworth Energy Committee positions:

~Gabrielle made a motion to make Ted M. Vice-chair of the Tamworth Energy Committee, Second: Ellen F., **Vote:** unanimous.

~The Tamworth Energy Committee (TEC) members also discussed staggered terms for committee members. Gabrielle W. will accept a three-year term, Ted M. will accept a two-year term, and Ellen F. will accept a one-year term.

(Ellen will post on town website.)

Review and Finalize Mission Statement for webpage on town website

Tamworth Energy Committee (TEC) members reviewed and edited the text of the draft mission statement. Changes were noted.

(Ellen will circulate one more draft via email, then post to the TEC town website. Ellen will also post next meeting TBA on website and cancel April 5th meeting.)

Update: Energy audits:

~Gabrielle W. has had conversations with Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) and Eversource on funding energy audits for municipal buildings. Both CDFA and Eversource suggested doing one building audit at a time, to focus on implementing efficiency measures after the audit.

~Support to Brett School for HVAC & Energy audit

Gabrielle reported that Jack Waldron, Chair of the Tamworth School Board reported their likely interest in having an energy audit at the Brett School. Eversource covers 100% of the cost of the

audit with their pre-approved auditors. The school board will be discussing the idea at their Thursday meeting on April 20th.

(Ellen and Ted will check schedules to see if they can attend the school board meeting)

The school is planning to install new HVAC systems this summer. School Board Chair Waldren also reported that they have put their HVAC contractor in touch with Eversource regarding planned system retrofit. (Eversource could potentially cover 35% of the total cost if they install more efficient systems.) The vendor/engineer/construction firm needs to apply to Eversource BEFORE the project begins to be eligible for funding.

~ **Support for Town Office Energy Audit.** The Town Administrator has expressed interest in having an energy audit performed for the Town Offices. The CDFA covers 75% of energy audits up to \$6,000, with a 25% matching funds, totaling \$8,000 for an audit. Gabrielle received permission to apply to the Tamworth Foundation for up to \$2,000 for the 25% matching funds at the Tamworth Select Board meeting on April 23rd.

TEC members agreed to apply to CDFA for funding an energy audit on the Tamworth Town Office Building. Gabrielle will seek an estimate from Resilient Buildings Group for an energy audit of the Town Offices and apply to the Tamworth Foundation for a grant covering the 25% matching funds needed.

Motion to apply for funding: Gabrielle W., Second: Ellen F., **Vote:** Unanimous
(Gabrielle will apply to Tamworth foundation)

Discussion: It is imperative to keep track of any cost saving that the TEC provides to the town for the end of year report.

Possible call with Melissa Elander on April 12th

Gabrielle will contact Melissa Elander, the North Country Energy Circuit Rider with Clean Energy NH, and try to set up a meeting with the TEC. This meeting will need to be noticed on the town website.

(Gabrielle will send out a 'when to meet' poll via email to find potential meeting times.)

Discussion: Helping Tamworth explore Community Power

Town administrator Keats Meyer emailed TEC a request to follow up with a person seeking to provide some information on Community Power. Recently passed legislation has enabled towns across NH to obtain electricity at more competitive rates by aggregating their residents' demand, like a buyers' club. The towns that are saving money through this program are generally large towns with a lot of resources. *(Gabrielle W. agreed to be the point person.)*

The Town Administrator also asked for assistance researching competitive energy providers. Negotiating a price with energy vendors is not part of the TEC mission mandate because the

focus is on reducing traditional energy demand through energy efficiency and new alternative energy production.

(Gabrielle to discuss this further with Keats, explaining it's not exactly within our mandate.)

Strategies to reach the public with information and resources.

TEC members discussed ideas for communicating with the public.

~ Utilizing the town web page:

~Research/look at what other energy committees in other towns have on their web pages.

~Contact the Tamworth webmaster and find out if we can electronically link subpages. *(Ellen)*

~work on a series of energy information pages to help both homeowners and business owners.

(Examples of topics: sources of funding, home energy audits, weatherizing, information on electric vehicles, charging stations, electric buses, home appliances, (lightbulbs, solar arrays) tax credits.) *(Ted)*

Next meeting: TBA

Ted has a conflict with our scheduled meeting on April 5th.

Gabrielle will send out a 'when to meet notice', Ellen will cancel the April 5th meeting and post rescheduled meeting.

To Do:

Gabrielle:

Application for funding Tamworth Foundation,

Send "When to meet" poll via email for April 12th and our next TEC meeting,

Advise Town Administrator we are happy to have further discussions on Community Power with the person who reached out to the Town..

Ted:

Continue to work with library and attend meeting with library building committee on April 18th

Work on informational topics to be posted on the town website, developing a template we can contribute to with a description and resources

Ellen:

Circulate mission statement, post mission statement, TEC officer positions and terms,

conversation with webmaster on TEC pages, cancel and post new meeting times: April 12th and rescheduled meeting.

Attend school board meeting?

Adjourn 11:58 am

Minutes E. Farnum

