

Tamworth Energy Committee Minutes
Monday April 10, 2023 Cook Memorial Library 1:30 pm

Call to order: 1:45

Present: Gabrielle Watson, Ted Morgan, Ellen Farnum

Review & approve meeting minutes,

Motion to approve Ted M. Second: Gabrielle W. **Vote:** unanimous

Discuss scheduling Meetings:

Tamworth Energy Committee (TEC) members discussed establishing a regular monthly meeting time.

~The group will tentatively plan meetings **beginning in June on the first Monday of each month at 1:30 pm**, suggested place: Cook Memorial Library. (We will formally confirm this at our next meeting.)

NOTE: Our next meeting will be on Tuesday May 9, 2:30 PM

We will try to coordinate a zoom call with Melissa Elander for the same meeting.

(Gabrielle will contact Melissa, Ellen will find a meeting time and place) Both DONE

Energy Audit information

TEC members reviewed a draft document submitted by Ted for how we might inform the public about energy audits. Gabrielle suggested adding 'steps' for how a person would start the process (e.g., using the energy calculator). The information would also include links for funding sources and service providers. Examples:

~Link to NH Saves, <https://nhsaves.com/learn/rebate/weatherization/>

~Tri-Town CAP, 603-326-6626 or dial 211 <http://www.tccap.org/>

~ Energy Calculator. <https://energyaudit.nhsaves.com/>

Town Web Page

Ellen contacted Emily, (the town Webmaster) about our TEC page on the Tamworth website.

Emily needed some time to establish the new webpage but is now eager to talk with us.

Ellen will call next week and seek a time when she is available, then contact Gabrielle.

NE Renewable Power Tamworth, LLC PILOT

This is the company that purchased Pine Tree Power. The company is currently in discussions with the Tamworth Selectboard about payment in lieu of taxes. Engaging in this topic is not part of TEC's mission. No further action needed.

Helping Tamworth Explore Community Power

John Delsignore from Standard Power reached out to Keats Meyer (town administrator) about establishing a municipal power aggregation (similar to a buyer's club) for energy needs in Tamworth.

Gabrielle also had a discussion with Mr. Delsignore.

The Community Power program would potentially offer energy cost savings to Tamworth residents and could provide an opportunity to use more renewable energy. (The community members can decide the percentage of renewable energy they want to purchase, up to 100%.) the company acts as a 'broker' and negotiates with Eversource and other energy providers. It takes 4 to 6 months to do the administrative work. Contracts run from one to three years.

A second option:

Nonprofit: community power coalition of NH

Melissa Elander from Clean Energy NH may be able to give us further info. The group agreed to schedule a meeting with her and to gather more information.

Gabrielle will follow up with scheduling a time to meet with Melissa E. DONE

Weatherization workshop for residents & businesses

Gabrielle has done some research into different workshops that can be offered. She has reached out to Ted Stiles, an energy efficiency contractor who works with NH Saves Energy and who also offers 'button up' workshops.

Gabrielle described two different models:

~ A comprehensive model that might offer representatives from utilities, Tri County Cap, energy efficiency contractors, weatherization businesses, and testimonials on completing an audit and home weatherization projects.

~ A more modest model such as the 'Button Up' workshop offered by PAREI.

**The NH Saves Button Up Workshop is a 1.5-hour presentation about how to improve the energy efficiency of your home. It is conducted by a certified energy auditor and covers basic building science principles as well as examples of whole house weatherization measures that will button up your home for the heating and cooling seasons. It also covers details about the energy efficiency programs offered by NH utilities (for existing homes and new construction) that provide energy audits, weatherization measures such as air sealing and insulating and rebates on new technologies and products such as electric and gas appliances and high efficiency electric heating/cooling equipment. *from website*

Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative (PAREI) of Plymouth, NH is working with local groups around the state to bring these workshops to the public on behalf of New Hampshire's utilities. There is a lot of support for citizens. Staff members can help individuals fill out the forms to cover the cost of an audit, and to guide people to use the energy calculator.

~ *Ted will contact an Eversource representative to see if there is still money available for 2023 workshops, Gabrielle will send Eversource contact info to Ted. TEC will discuss this topic at our next meeting.*

Energy inventory using [Energy Star Portfolio Manager](#)

Gabrielle introduced the group to the online tool, Energy Star Portfolio Manager. This tool would allow us to keep track of all the town properties, assess their energy efficiency and measure energy savings over time. It can take a baseline measurement of how energy efficient a building is, which can help us determine the next building to prioritize for an energy audit and energy efficiency work. TEC members will need to set up an account and coordinate with Keats to get information on the building sizes/electric bills. Rick M. our town building maintenance person, might also be able to help.

Gabrielle will create a corporate account. Individual members can take advantage of online training information. Discuss at next meeting.

Agenda Items for next meeting:

Discussion: EV Charging infrastructure grant

Discussion: Strategies to reach the public with information and resources.

Next meeting: Tuesday May 9, 2023 2:30 pm Cook Library

Minutes: E Farnum

