

Tamworth Energy Committee (TEC) Minutes

August 21, 2023

Cook Memorial Library 3:00 pm

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

Call to Order: 3:00 pm

Review of one-page handout: Tamworth Community Energy

TEC members discussed edits to a draft document created by David K., explaining Community Energy to the public, and to a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page created by John K.

The following suggestions were made:

- Keep the document short,
- Emphasize the concept of Community Power Aggregation and reduce the explanation of Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH),
- When reporting about CPCNH, include the fact TEC analyzed the three available options before settling on CPCNH as the organization that can best help Tamworth invest in energy independence and reduce cost.
- Add a QR code in addition to posting the link to the Tamworth Energy Committee website,
- Keep the FAQ sheet as a separate document available through the website/QR code.

David K. will edit the Tamworth Community Energy one-pager,

John K. will continue to work on the FAQ page,

Gabrielle W. will generate a QR code.

Update on Chocorua Dam

David K has communicated with Chocorua Dam owners Judith Reardon and Peter Smart. TEC would like to organize a meeting for the public this winter so that Peter could explain the potential for hydro power, share the history of the dam and explain the effort currently underway to preserve the dam and surrounding park.

Peter and Judith are working on obtaining a conservation easement on the dam presently but would welcome an opportunity to speak in the future.

~Discussion of working with the library to present this topic as part of their Face-to-Face series.

TEC will follow-up and plan further next month.

Update from CPCNH

Gabrielle W. has communicated with Henry Herndon from CPCNH. They discussed the next steps to help TEC to move forward with a Community Power Aggregation plan.

(There are many templates and forms to help a community plan and organize available on the Energy Committee Google Drive.)

1. Request Aggregated Customer Data through Public Utilities Commission (PUC),
2. Fill out a logo form. (TEC members suggested Mt. Chocorua and possibly Chinook Husky)
3. Send a draft of the warrant article to Town Administrator Keats Meyer.

4. Prioritize goals and objectives as a committee, and encourage the public to help set these goals at the first Public Hearing,
5. Hold two Public Hearings,
6. Submit the Energy Aggregation plan to the Public Utilities Commission at least 60 days prior to Town Meeting.

Discussion on the Public Hearing:

~ there is a template for holding a Public Hearing available from CPCNH.

~The primary job of the TEC is to explain community power, not sell a particular company to deliver the power.

~ Should we invite a speaker from another community using Community Power to come to our Public Hearing?

~ According to American Public Power Association, there are more than 900 rural electric coops throughout the United States. Community Power and electric co-ops are successful in rural areas.

Discussion on submitting a plan to the PUC:

Should we submit a plan earlier? (Gabrielle will ask Henry H about this)

Discussion on questions raised by Standard Power Representative J. DelSignore:

Henry Herndon responded to several assertions made in the research document shared by Mr. DelSignore:

1. CPCNH does not garner profit, it rather builds reserves. He has asked other CPCNH members to figure out the exact sum used for overhead cost and will report back.
2. All companies have an overhead cost, but in private companies this cost is invisible.
3. Municipal buildings can be included in the Tamworth Energy Committee plan.

Gabrielle:

Ask Henry Herndon if we should submit our plan to PUC earlier than suggested,

Submit the Logo form, share draft warrant article with Town Administrator.

Tamworth Foundation:

Gabrielle W. attended the annual Tamworth Foundation meeting and highlighted some of the work the Tamworth Energy Committee has been doing. Gabrielle felt that the audience was receptive and interested in TEC's work.

Tamworth Foundation is able to provide 'seed' money for projects but does not give out large grants. At this time, TEC is not requesting further funds.

Town Office Energy Audit:

The results of the Energy Audit done earlier in the summer on the Tamworth Office Building are still not available.

TEC will go over the audit findings once the report is in.

Button Up Workshop

TEC members reviewed plans for the Button-Up workshop on September 19th and discussed ways to help residents fund home energy upgrades.

- Flyers/handouts: Request permission to print the flyers at the Town Office. Flyers should be available at the library, the post offices, the Tamworth Town Office, and perhaps

distributed to Tamworth residents via Meals-on-Wheels, or through the Tri-Town CAP office.

- Technology: TEC has permission to borrow the O.W.L. from the town office for a practice session and the meeting. Ellen has signed up a projector and cord adapter from the Cook library.
- Refreshments: still to be determined
- Publicity:
 - ~Ted will post the flyer on the Tamworth Exchange, and let people know that it will be helpful for them to bring information to the meeting. (Square footage of the heated area of the home, and a year's worth of energy bills including how much the resident spent on all sources of heating: oil, propane, wood or other alternative/supplemented heating)
 - ~David will post our flyer and communicate some of the projects TEC has been working on in the Green Energy Times.

TEC will continue to discuss plans at our next meeting.

Ted: Meet with school representative to schedule a 'rehearsal' time, find out about serving refreshments, Post flyer and info on the Tamworth Exchange.

David: Post flyer/news in the Green Energy Times.

Gabrielle: see if the Town Office will print flyer.

Ellen: pick up Tech equipment for practice and event.

Research on Funding for EV Charging stations:

~David attempted to contact Eversource to find out more about the cost associated with installing EV charging stations. He had very little luck finding useful information; Eversource referred him to NH Saves.

~ Gabrielle contacted Melissa Elander (North Country Circuit Rider for Clean Energy NH).

Melissa provided a really nice guide to EV

charging: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/382955cb53144078824e0bf40ac0340f?item=1>. She also suggested contacting ReVision Energy. Gabrielle has also requested information from the company working on the Tamworth Community Nurse Association building. She is waiting for a response from this group.

TEC will revisit this subject at our next meeting.

John K will contact other EV charging companies and help develop a set of common questions to ask each company.

Approval of August 7, 2023 minutes:

Minutes unanimously approved.

Next Meeting:

TEC next scheduled meeting falls on Labor Day, when the library is closed. Ellen will check to see if the Town House is available.

((Update: Our next meeting will be at 3:00 pm September 4, 2023 at the Tamworth Town House.))

Meeting Adjourned: 4:45 pm

E. Farnum Minutes

