

Minutes Tamworth Energy Committee (TEC)
September 18, 2023, Cook Memorial Library, 3:00 pm

Call to Order: 3:04

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

Approve Minutes from September 4, 2023:

Minutes unanimously approved.

Button-Up Workshop:

TEC members reviewed plans for the upcoming Button-Up Workshop on September 19th. The flyers have been distributed, and refreshments are organized. Ted reviewed his opening remarks.

- ~ Introduce Energy Committee members and briefly outline some of the TEC activities,
- ~ thank the co-sponsors and Brett School,
- ~ Introduce Ted S.

TEC will try to take photos during the talk. We will also have the new one-page Tamworth Community Power information page at the event.

To Do List:

All Members:

- ~Arrive at 5:45 to help with refreshments and technology,
- ~Take photos,
- ~Have questions in mind (if needed) to start further conversations.

John:

- ~ bring computer in case it is needed,

Ellen:

- ~ Pick up OWL, bring refreshments, an extension cord and computer,

Ted:

Post event on the Tamworth Exchange,

Gabrielle

- ~Bring projector, computer (with slide show loaded), copies of Tamworth Community Power informational page.

Harvest Potluck and Community Conversations:

TEC members reviewed plans for the 'Scheming and Dreaming about Tamworth's Energy Future' that will be held on Wed, Sept. 27, at 6:00 pm at the Cook Library. Gabrielle will be facilitating the event hosted by the Chocorua Lake Conservancy, the Library and the Tamworth Energy Committee.

What are the values to prioritize as a community?

What kinds of projects can you imagine?

Consider a survey.

Gabrielle:

- ~Check with Juno about publicity for this event.

Ellen:

~ post the event on the Tamworth Energy page.

Tamworth Community Power

TEC members recently attended the 'New Member Orientation and a Community Power PLAN' workshop with Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH).

The workshop provided an opportunity for new member towns to discuss their progress in joining CPCNH. Questions were answered, and CPCNH provided an outline of the steps necessary to move forward:

- Logo: Gabrielle and David have reviewed the draft Logo designed by CPCNH and have recommended some changes.
- Gabrielle has noticed the Public Utility Commission that our Energy Committee has been registered as the Tamworth Electric Aggregation Committee (pursuant to Puc 2203.01).
- The next step will be for CPCNH to request our aggregated electric customer data from Eversource. This information is needed for our plan.
- Hearing Dates for Tamworth Community Power:
TEC discussed possible dates for the two required Public Hearings for Tamworth Community Power. John K. will check the town calendar and the Cook Library calendar to try to find times that will not conflict with already scheduled events. The following dates work for most committee members:

October 17, October 24

November 7, November 9, November 16, November 27, 28, 29

~There was a question about whether folks receiving Low Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHAP) money can participate in Tamworth Community Power. According to the frequently asked questions on the website, this group can be part of Tamworth Community Power.

~Tamworth Residents making their own solar power will not benefit from inclusion in the Tamworth Community Power at this time. CPCNH has been actively working on how to include and benefit residents generating their own power.

John:

~Check town and library calendars to find dates for the Public Hearings.

Ellen:

~Post the color version of Tamworth Community Power on the Energy Committee website.

Clean Energy NH Conference

Clean Energy NH is offering a conference on Local Energy Solutions (LES).

Gabrielle shared info on a conference on **November 2, 2023, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm**

**Organized by Clean Energy NH, the Local Energy Solutions (LES) Conference is the state's premier energy conference and the only event of its kind that brings together the clean energy community in New Hampshire. Collectively we learn about the latest topics, listen to experts discuss innovative ideas and best practices, and experience new technologies first-hand. The LES Conference offers best of the best networking*

opportunities with industry partners, state policy professionals, non-profits, and municipal leaders.

*The LES Conference features 4 tracks with 12 panels and discussions about topics that span the entire range of energy policy issues: state and federal energy policy, case studies in energy storage, micro-grids, building infrastructure and housing, clean tech, electric vehicles and EV infrastructure, sustainable transportation, zoning, and municipal clean energy. (*from website)*

Solar Projects

David K reported on a conversation he had with ReVision Energy's Michael Bartner. ReVision energy is planning to develop NH solar projects capable of generating 1 to 2 megawatts of energy. This would require approximately 5 acres of land. A project of this size would best serve municipalities with a budget of \$50,000 or more.

Would Tamworth qualify?

Gabrielle has emailed Dexter Harding, (a Tamworth School Board member), and ask him to share data showing the amount of electrical energy the school uses.

~ In the future, our group might want to create an 'energy portfolio' that will detail the amount of power used in each of the municipal buildings.

~David is also continuing to talk with property owners at Ski and Beach about a solar power installation.

David and Gabrielle:

~Collect data on electricity used at the KA Brett School.

Town Office Audit

The results of the Energy Audit done earlier in the summer on the Tamworth Office Building are still not available. TEC will review the findings once the report is in.

EV Charging Stations:

TEC would like to find out the costs associated with installing EV charging stations.

~John is still waiting to hear from his contact in the hopes of obtaining useful information.

~David recommended developing a draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for installing a simple two-post EV charging station capable of charging up to four vehicles. (John has found some sample RFP's online.) With Selectboard approval, these RFP's could be sent to local companies.

~TEC would hope to find an experienced company; it would also be desirable for the chargers to accept credit cards (instead of requiring the user to download an app).

Discussion of concerns about EV chargers

A concern has been raised by a local member of the fire department. Zach Remick feels that the fire department is ill prepared to deal with fires associated with EV chargers and electric vehicles. Gabrielle suggested inviting him to one of our meetings to discuss concerns. Group members are willing to meet at a later time if this would be more convenient for Zach.

Gabrielle:

~Invite Zach to one of our next meetings.

Ellen:

~Reschedule meeting time if necessary.

TEC Budget:

Gabrielle has discussed creating a budget for the Tamworth Energy Committee. A budget could cover a membership fee for Clean Energy NH (a valuable source of information), and other costs associated with public meetings.

Gabrielle:

~Obtain a budget form from town administrator Keats Meyer and send to committee members to look at. The form can be filled out by the TEC group at a regular scheduled meeting.

Other Business:

CPCNH is looking for volunteers to serve as ‘ambassadors.’ Gabrielle will attend a meeting and find out more about the responsibilities associated with the title.

Next Scheduled Meeting: October 2, 2023 Cook Memorial Library 3:00 pm

Possible Agenda items:

1. Meet with Zach Remick
2. Follow-up Community Conversations
3. Public Hearings
4. Webpage
5. TEC Budget
6. Town Office Energy Audit
7. Report on energy use at the Brett School

Meeting Adjourned: 4:42 pm

Minutes: E. Farnum