

Minutes Tamworth Energy Committee
October 2, 2023, Cook Memorial Library 3:00 pm

Call to Order: 3:04

Present: Gabrielle Watson, Ted Morgan, John Kumm, Ellen Farnum, David Kunhardt (remote) **Guest:** Rick Moreau, Director of Tamworth Building Maintenance

Minutes from September 18, 2023

Minutes approved unanimously.

Button-Up Workshop on September 19: insights and next steps:

The Button-Up workshop with guest speaker Ted Stiles contained lots of practical information. TEC members have received enthusiastic response from the attendees. Even though the workshop was well publicized, participation was lower than our goal of 50. (24 people participated in in-person and virtually.)

Some suggestions for the future:

- Build attendance by working on an email/phone list so that TEC members can reach out directly to interested folks,
- Continue to offer a remote link that can be recorded and shared afterwards.
- Ask Union Hall to co-sponsor future events when they have internet access: they might help draw a different audience.

Energy Audit Report from Resilient Building Group

Resilient Buildings Group (RBG) conducted a site visit of the Tamworth Town Office building in July, 2023. During the audit, RBG examined the building's shell, mechanical systems and all other pertinent building systems and conducted a blower door test to assess the building tightness to outdoor air infiltration. The report was received on September 20th. Rick Moreau, Tamworth Building Maintenance Director, reviewed the report previously with Chair Gabrielle Watson, and during the meeting with Tamworth Energy Committee members. (See attached report)

*Note: this analysis does not include 30% "Direct Pay" Federal benefits through the Inflation Reduction Act, utility rebates from NH Saves or potential Grants from CDFA or other grant-making agencies.

Discussion of the Audit and Recommendations:

The following measures will be recommended to the Tamworth Select Board on Thursday October 5th:

- Air seal and insulate attic floor. This measure would pay for itself in about 8.9 years. (see report: B1)
- Add duct work insulation: this measure has a relatively low cost and would pay for itself in 12.6 years. (See report: M3)

- Re-evaluate air quality/air flow after the insulation is added (see above recommendations).
- Consider installing a 4.8kw Solar Electric System. The west facing roof on the Tamworth Office Building is optimal for a roof-mounted solar. (See Report R1 EEM)
- Consult with other HVAC professionals or perhaps an Industrial Hygienist about air circulation/air quality measures.

Potential Future Actions:

- Air Source Heat Pump heating and cooling system: Since the Tamworth Town Office currently has 3 gas fired furnaces, all functioning well with ongoing maintenance, the TEC does not recommend replacing with a Heat Pump at this time. Replacement with an air-source heat pump system will be a large capital outlay, unless it can be offset with grants. This measure could be considered in the future when the present system begins to fail or significant grant funding can be secured. (See Report M1)
- Air Source Water Heater: The town currently has a functioning water heater. The TEC does not recommend replacing the unit with an electric water heater with a heat pump. This measure could be considered in the future when the present system begins to fail or further analysis shows sooner replacement would be cost-effective. (See report, M2)
- Town Office Ventilation: The building currently has no mechanical ventilation. A solution would be to install an ERV (Energy Recovery Ventilator) to bring fresh air into the building. Further research is needed to find out the cost and placement of ERV unit(s)

Upcoming Selectboard Meeting:

Gabrielle will discuss the energy audit at the next Selectboard meeting. She will also suggest the town join Clean Energy NH so that two people can attend valuable workshops and information sessions.

Tamworth Community Power

The town of Tamworth has now been formally accepted by CPCNH, (Community Power Coalition of NH) and a request has been made by CPCNH for the aggregated electric customer data from Eversource. Data from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHAP) has also been requested.

Two required public hearings have been scheduled for October 17 and November 29 at the Tamworth Town House. John Kumm will arrange a time to practice the technology needed for the Zoom link prior to the first meeting. TEC will do further planning at our next meeting.

Hearing Dates:

October 17th at 7:00 pm at the Tamworth Town House

November 29th at 3:00 pm at the Tamworth Town House

To Do:**Gabrielle:**

- *Confirm CPCNH representatives Henry Herndon and/or Andrew Hatch will be available to attend the meeting.*
- *Create a poster to advertise the Hearings.*
- *post the meetings on the Tamworth website and in newsletter,*
- *bring information sheet to the hearing,*
- *Review and plan the slide show with Ted,*
- *Attend tech practice session with Ellen at the Town House on Monday, October 16th at 9:30 am*

Ted:

- *Review and plan the slideshow with Gabrielle.*

Ellen:

- *Borrow OWL and projector,*
- *Attend the tech practice session with Gabrielle at the Town House on Monday, October 16th at 9:30 am*

Brett School Energy Audit:

Eversource has pre-approved auditors who have contacted both Gabrielle and school board member Dexter Harding, the TEC Brett School liaison, that the Brett school is interested in pursuing an energy audit at this time. **John and Ted** have agreed to be the Tamworth Energy Committee contacts as this audit moves forward.

To Do:**Gabrielle:**

- *Share email communications with Eversource audit company with John and Ted.*

Eco-Solar

Gabrielle has been contacted by a company, ECO Solar, eager to develop solar projects for municipal and school buildings in Carroll County. This could be an economical alternative for our municipal leadership to consider. David will contact Eco Solar, gather information and report back to our group.

To Do:**Gabrielle:**

- *Forward email from Stephanie Eggers to David*

David:

- *Contact Stephanie Eggers from Echo Solar*

Next Scheduled Meeting: October 16, 2023 Cook Library, 3 pm

Possible Agenda items:

1. Selectboard Meeting: (Energy Audit)
2. Continued planning for CPCNH Hearings
3. Zack Remick, First Responder: preparedness needs for EV future
4. Review Community Conversation from September 27th: insights and next steps
5. EV Expo initial planning and next steps (contact car dealerships, propose dates to CMI)
6. Energy Committee web page: update ideas, key documents, revisit Ted's earlier suggestion for content.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:40 pm

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