

## **Tamworth Energy Committee (TEC) Minutes February 26, 2024, Cook Memorial Library**

**Call to Order:** 3:10

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

**Guest:** Jim Torpey (remote)

### **Approval of Minutes from Jan. 15, 2024**

Motion to approve: David K.    Second: Ted M.    **Vote:** Minutes unanimously approved.

### **Introductions:**

TEC members introduced themselves to Jim Torpey, from Madison. Jim spent many years in the solar industry before retiring. He is interested in learning more about our group and helping TEC as his time allows. Group members noted that it would be valuable to share and exchange information on projects with Madison residents.

### **1. Community Power**

Community Power will be presented to the public at Town Meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup>. (\*Warrant article below) Gabrielle will speak to the article with support from the other TEC members.

Prior to the meeting, there are some Member Service Contracts that need to be shared, approved, and signed by the Tamworth Selectboard. (Recently sent by Andrew Hatch from CPCNH).

So far, there have been very few questions from the public regarding the Warrant Article. TEC members agreed to share more information prior to March 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **To Do:**

#### **Gabrielle:**

- Meet with Selectboard to go over the Member Service Contracts,
- Give copies of the one-page Community Power explanatory document to the library,
- Draft a post to the Tamworth Exchange for TEC to review at our March 4 meeting. Consider using or referencing the recent article from Green Energy Times. (include TEC email for folks with questions)
- Bring CPCNH postcard handouts to share at Town Meeting

ARTICLE #05 To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Tamworth Community Power plan, to authorize the Tamworth Select Board to implement the plan, and to take all action in furtherance thereof, pursuant to RSA 53-E. The Tamworth Community Power plan is an opt-out program that offers more flexible electricity procurement. The plan will initially provide lower electricity rates for residents, or it will not launch. Initial participation in the plan can be declined, after which enrollment becomes voluntary. (Majority vote required) The Select Board recommends this article. (5 Yes – 0 No)

### **Community Power Future Steps:**

If Community Power is approved at Town Meeting, TEC may then let people know they can 'opt up' and voluntarily choose a Community Power option that includes more green energy. For some members of the public, this will be an attractive option.

### **2. EV Expo**

Ted has had a difficult time reaching Club Motorsports staff to set a date and time for the Expo. His new contact is Zach Hewson. (Contact was formerly Jim Hoenscheid). Ted will continue to chase down the details (See To Do list below).

TEC members discussed alternative sites and dates to hold the EV Expo should discussions with Club Motorsports fall through.

#### **Alternative Sites:**

KA Brett School would be our first choice, as it is a large area with a circular drive located in a good spot. (One drawback: No bathrooms available)

Other sites:

UUFES,

Parking lot behind Town Office,

Parking lot behind the Town House,

Pub on Paige Hill.

#### **Dates:**

Club Motorsports can only host an event on Sunday. If TEC has its own event, we could choose a Saturday.

First Choice: May 4, 2024, or May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Second Choice: May 18, 2024

### **TEC reviewed dealerships willing to send vehicles.**

- John contacted both Grappone in Concord, (Hyundai IONIQ 5/6 dealership) and the Subaru dealership in Conway (Solterra.) Both dealerships were enthusiastic about participating.
- Ellen contacted Irwin Motors in Laconia. (Ford and Hyundai) The owner was non-committal, and is waiting for more details.
- Ted has attempted to contact NuCar in Tilton (VWs (ID-4, and Kia's EV-6 and Niro), but has not heard back from this dealership. (He will continue to attempt

contact). Ted will also call Lovering Volvo in Meredith (contact number 888-615-4775).

- Gabrielle will contact Green Wave Electric Vehicles in North Hampton (sell used electric vehicles, VW, Rivian and Nissan), and the Fenton Family Dealerships (contact Douglas Welch, and George Thompson: 603-355-5000.) (Hyundai, Toyota, Volvo & Honda)

David noted that there is currently a \$4,000 tax credit available through the Inflation Reduction Act, for the purchase of a used electric vehicle. TEC will ask dealerships to bring information on rebates and credits. (TEC will create flyers to help guide consumers if necessary.)

**To Do:**

**Ted:** Continue reaching out to Club Motorsports:

- Request and finalize a date for the EV Expo, **(First choice: May 5, 2024)**
- Confirm time,
- Confirm an hour of driving laps in vehicles (Club Motorsports typically opens the track to their members at 11:00. Our expo may cause them to delay their opening for members for an hour.)
- Confirm who will organize the Classic Cars portion of the event: will their members bring their classic cars, or will TEC need to put out the word for local classic car owners?
- Ask whether private EV owners could display (and possibly drive) their cars.

**Ted:** Follow Up with car dealerships,

**Gabrielle:** Follow up with car dealerships.

### **3. Future Solar Initiatives on Town Lands, Solar Land Lease or Net Metering**

Update on Walk-about Tour: Ted, John and David visited town-owned land to explore the possibility of a solar project. Ideally, a solar installation would have 15 acres of cleared land. If a suitable piece of land could be found, there would be the potential for the town to lease the property to a solar developer. David reported that a 15-acre parcel could generate an average of \$4,000 an acre per year for the town. (15-acre site= \$60,000 annually.)

The largest, suitable town-owned site viewed was the 10-acre site on the Sanitary Landfill on Durrell Road. This site is near to a 3-phase electrical connection to the grid. This site had some potential drawbacks however:

- Size is not ideal,
- Proximity to neighbors,
- Differentiated settling may be a problem as solar projects are best sited on stable ground.

The committee also visited a site that the town is considering purchasing. (a discussion of the solar potential will be reviewed if town purchases the site.)

**Discussion** of possible grant funding: Clean Energy Group may have some suggestions for TEC. David suggested contacting CENH's circuit rider Melissa Elander. NH Network members Sue Richmond and Paul Bemis may also have information.

**Future Planning:** Since there is not currently a good site available, the best option for Tamworth might be to consider entering into an agreement with ReVision Energy or ECA Solar or similar. These groups provide rebates to the town based on the amount of energy used by Tamworth's Municipal Buildings. The companies can benefit from solar projects developed outside of Tamworth's municipal boundaries. Benefits to the town include no up-front cost, no ownership liabilities and a reduction to municipal ratepayer costs.

**Potential Future Agenda Items:**

- Update on Brett School energy audit report. Any recommendations? Discussion of next steps.
- Town Office energy efficiency implementation - next steps?
  - a. Insulation
  - b. Heat pumps
  - c. ERV
- Committee work planning session for spring of 2024. Define scope and timing.

**Next Meeting:** Monday March 4<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 pm, Cook Memorial Library

**Meeting Adjourned:** 4:28 pm

Minutes E. Farnum