

Tamworth Energy Committee Meeting Minutes
July 24, 2023, Tamworth Town House, 10:30 am

Call to order: 10:33 am

Present: Ted Morgan, Gabrielle Watson, David Kunhardt, Ellen Farnum

Preparation for July 27th Select Board Meeting

Tamworth Energy Committee Members discussed goals for the next meeting with the Tamworth Selectboard:

1. Authorize the Town Administrator (with the advice of the town council) to sign the non-binding Joint Powers Agreement that will demonstrate the intention of the town to work with CPCNH. (This agreement shows the town's intent and is not a formal commitment.)
2. Ask Selectboard to authorize the Tamworth Energy Committee (TEC) to continue to work with the Selectboard and the Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH) to develop and manage plans for Community Energy Aggregation. This 'Electric Aggregation Committee' would help advertise the program, organize the two Public Hearings, and be prepared to present the plan at town meeting in March of 2024.
3. Move to approve Gabrielle W. as the primary contact and the Town Administrator as the alternate contact for the Electric Aggregation Committee.
4. Appoint new members John Kumm and David Kunhardt to the Tamworth Energy Committee
5. Ask if we could submit a brief article on Community Power to be printed in the town's newsletter.

Also on the Selectboard agenda: accepting funds from the Tamworth Foundation for the energy audit of the Town Office Building

Button up workshop:

TEC members reviewed plans for the September 19th Button Up workshop.

Advertising:

~Gabrielle has generated a QR code and short URL to be added to the poster advertising the workshop.

~TEC will plan a press release for the Button-Up event for the Conway Daily Sun and the Laconia Daily Sun.

~ Closer to the event date (September 19th) TEC will post info on the Tamworth Exchange and the Sandwich Board. (Suggested Save the Date post 1 to 2 weeks before the event, followed by reminder post).

~ Post on town Website.

~Contact our co-sponsors and ask them to advertise the event.

~Put up posters advertising the event.

Other questions:

~Gabrielle has a planned phone call with Ted Stiles. She will ask the following questions:

1. How much money will be available from Home Performance with Energy Star (HPwES) for weatherizing buildings? Will there still be enough money in September?
2. Can we invite a local person to share his experience with insulating his home?

3. How can TEC help homeowners prepare to apply for incentives? (They need one year of energy bills and their home's heated square footage to see if they qualify)

~ What technology is needed for the event? Will we need to borrow a Meeting O.W.L.? Will we need a projector? *(Ted will follow up with Robbin Adams of PAREI)*

Other ideas for Button-Up meeting:

~ Plan to briefly discuss other Energy Committee initiatives at the end of the Button Up Program: Community Power Aggregation with CPCNH and EV expo.

~ plan refreshments

To Do list for Button Up workshop:

Gabrielle:

follow-up conversation with Ted Styles

contact the co-sponsors.

Ted

Prepare Press Release

ask about technology.

Ellen:

post to Exchange and Sandwich Board and town Newsletter.

Chocorua Lake Conservancy (CLC) and Cook Library Community Conversations on Climate

David will be the guest speaker at the library on October 25th. TEC members discussed the possibility of joining in the conversation:

Tamworth Community Power would offer a way to build reserve funds. What dreams aspirations does the community have for a more climate conscious future? Solar panels? Solar storage? Hydro power?

Would it be better for TEC to have their own evening to discuss these issues?

Gabrielle will have a follow up conversation with Juno Lamb from CLC.

Advertising the Community Power Program:

Gabrielle submitted a press release drafted by Ted Morgan to the Conway Daily Sun in June that was not printed. (Part of the press release was used in the local Tamworth Column published in the Sun and written by Ann Borges).

~ *Ted will update the article to include any action taken at the June 27 Selectboard meeting and resubmit it.*

~ TEC will also ask that a version of the article be printed in the town Newsletter.

~ TEC members will create and print a one-page handout on Community Power to help explain the idea to town residents prior to the Public Hearing Dates.

~ Consider having a 'tabling event' at the Farmer's Market in December.

Update on the Energy Audit at the Town Office Building

Gabrielle reported that the Energy Audit was completed. There should be a report with suggestions for measures that could save the town money and energy by the end of August. These will most likely include measures for air sealing. The audit company, Reslient Building Group, will also look at the feasibility of solar panels on the roof. The energy audit will help the

town apply for funding from Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) or other potential funding sources.

Chocorua Dam and Hydro Power:

The Tamworth Energy Committee would like to share information about the Chocorua Dam with the public. David suggested that we work with the CLC and the library and invite Peter Smart to present information at one of the Climate talks.

David will work with Juno Lamb on scheduling a talk.

Approve Minutes from July 17th meeting

Meeting minutes were amended and approved unanimously.

Second Meeting Date for TEC

TEC members discussed the need to meet twice a month. We currently meet at 3:00 pm on the first Monday of each month: could we meet at 3:00 pm on the third Monday as well?

Ellen will check with our new TEC member John Kumm to see if he is available on these dates.

Minutes: E. Farnum