

Draft Minutes Tamworth Energy Committee (TEC) Meeting
Monday, December 4, 2023
Cook Memorial Library, 3:00 pm

Call to Order: 3:15 pm

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

Approve Minutes from 11/20/23:

Motion to approve: Gabrielle W. Second David K. **vote:** unanimous

Tamworth Community Power (TCP):

a. Warrant Article:

TEC members reviewed and discussed a draft of the Tamworth Community Power Warrant Article needed for Town Meeting in March. The current draft wording has been reviewed and approved by the town attorney. **Note:** *more discussion of Tamworth Community Power in **Other Business** at end of meeting)*

b. Review notes from Second Public Hearing:

Meeting notes were unanimously approved.

Further Discussion: Advertising Tamworth Community Power Warrant Article

Both Public Hearings had low attendance. TEC members discussed ways to familiarize the public on TCP ahead of Town Meeting.

- **Actions before Town Meeting:**

1. Post recording of Public Hearing on the Town Website
2. Advertise the **Town Website Link** to let the public know that further information and the recording are available. (include email address to TEC for specific questions)
3. Place information cards at the library and places around the town. (hand-write TEC email to encourage conversations)
4. Create a two or three paragraph explanation of TCP based on documents TEC has already created. Circulate TCP info to friends, neighbors, email lists (ask these folks to share with other Tamworth residents).
5. Advertise TEC meeting times and create an open slot on the TEC agenda for the public to come in and ask questions on Community Power.
6. Consider hosting a third Public Hearing (or informational meeting) on TCP after the Town Report with the warrant article is published (Feb.)

- **Recommendations for Future Events:**

1. Advertise in Conway Daily Sun
2. Make the Zoom link available multiple times on both the poster, and in reminder posts.

TO DO:**Gabrielle:**

- Schedule Meeting to review Electric Aggregation Plan with the Tamworth Selectboard
- Post Public Hearing recording and Ted's Public Hearing notes on the Town Website
- Post Public Hearing Recording, Public Hearing Notes
- Leave information cards on community Power at library and other local sites (add TEC email)

Ted:

- Create a draft informational post on Tamworth Community Power (based on existing documents and including an invite to attend TEC meetings and ask questions) that can be widely circulated on the Tamworth Exchange, the Conway Daily Sun in a Letter to the Editor and on Ann Burges' weekly Tamworth column.

David:

- Create a draft Request for Qualifications for solar services toward a community solar land lease that could potentially provide \$30,000 to \$60,000 per year to Tamworth.

Update on Town Office and Library Energy Efficiency Projects:**Grant Funding:**

Gabrielle has communicated with Melissa Elander, North Country Energy Circuit Rider (Clean Energy) and Tracey Secula from Lakes Region Planning Commission about possible grant opportunities.

- USDA Grant: Melissa has suggested that this is more involved than the Tamworth Energy Committee will be able to meet by December 15th. There will be a second chance to apply for a similar grant in April, but that national grant program will be even more competitive.
- NH Department of Energy (DOE): Tracey forwarded a link. Gabrielle will research this funding opportunity.

Other Available Incentives/Funding:

NH Saves offers a 50% incentive for weatherization projects.

Recommendation:

The date for submitting the town budget is in February 2024. Given the lack of timely grant funding, both Town Administrator Keats Meyer and Gabrielle believe the town should go forward with requesting the town to fund the following:

- **Town Office:** Air seal and insulate attic floor, air ductwork insulation. If any grant funding can be found or if the Selectboard agrees, they should also include an air source heat pump for basement furnace that is near the end of its life and an Energy Recovery Ventilator (ERV) to improve air quality in the building.

- **Library:** Basement insulation in Annex, and possibly basement air source heat pumps, energy recovery ventilator on HVAC upstairs.

Note: Incentives through NH Saves are available for the weatherization portion of these projects.

Future Solar Initiatives on Town Properties

David and Gabrielle plan to take a comprehensive look around town for potential places for solar installations. They have tentatively planned this action for Monday, February 12th.

They will report their findings to the group at a later meeting.

EV Expo Update and Planning:

Gabrielle has reached out again to Club Motor Sports about hosting an EV event in the spring.

Club Motorsports was enthusiastic about this at a prior meeting. TEC would like to now re-confirm their commitment and plan a date. Once a date is set, TEC can contact local dealerships and ask them to participate.

Other potential sites were discussed if Club Motorsports finds they are not able to host.

Energy Audit at the K. Brett School:

Eversource conducted a Level 1 audit of the Brett School. We are waiting for the audit company to submit a report.

Other Business:

- Discussion on finding new members of the Tamworth Energy Committee and of moving to a once-a month schedule in the future.

The group decided to keep the second meeting in December scheduled; we will cancel if necessary.

- **Return to Tamworth Community Power discussion:**

- TEC also discussed the possibility of presenting slides at Town Meeting.
- A motion was made to recommend that the town of Tamworth present the CPCNH BASIC option as the default option.

Vote: Unanimous

Next Meeting

December 18th, 1:30 pm, Cook Memorial Library

Adjourned: 4:30

Minutes: E Farnum