

Draft Tamworth Energy Committee Meeting (TEC)
August 7, 2023 3:00 pm
Cook Memorial Library

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

Call to Order: 3:00 pm

Tamworth Community Energy Handout:

David shared a one-page draft handout on Community Power in Tamworth. He also provided a link to the handout on google docs: [CPCNH-One-Pager.docx](#)

The committee agreed to review the draft over the next weeks and do a final edit when we are together at our next scheduled meeting on August 21st.

Discussion:

TEC members reviewed previous work on Community Power Energy Aggregation.

- ***Ellen** will send John K the link to the CPCNH PowerPoint and the comparison chart of the three community power providers that TEC prepared for the Tamworth Select Board.*

Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH) Next Steps:

Gabrielle has been trying to contact CPCNH to discuss how to set up an energy plan, and to find out more about the two required public hearings. CPCNH has not responded yet, due to staff vacation time.

- ***Gabrielle** will follow-up with these inquiries*
- ***Ellen** will contact the town administrator and confirm the date the Tamworth Warrant Article needs to be finalized.*

Municipal Energy Supply

Gabrielle W. received an email from John DeSignore from Standard Power. He believes that municipalities cannot be a part of an Energy Aggregation Agreement and must independently find providers for all municipal buildings. (Tamworth Community Power would only be able to provide energy to residents and business owners). Mr. DeSignore also questioned some of the CPCNH "profit" figures.

- ***Gabrielle** will have a follow-up conversation with Henry Herndon from CPCNH and report back to the group.*

Outreach Sept. 19 Button Up Workshop:

~**Poster** TEC members reviewed the poster for the upcoming Button Up Workshop.

Members suggested adding Cook Library and CLC as additional local partners.

~**email:** Ted asked about the TEC email from the town website, and volunteered to monitor it: tamworthenergy@tamworthnh.org

~**Technology:** Brett School does not have any technology available for running a hybrid meeting. TEC will need to borrow a projector, OWL device and computer. We will also need to schedule a practice session.

~**Ted:**

- *Contact Robyn to see if the poster can be adapted,*

- *Contact Brett School and schedule a technology practice session: (Friday, September 15 3:30 pm?),*
- *Ask if refreshments can be served on Sept. 19th.*
- *Request access to Brett School at 6:00 pm on Sept. 19th.*
- *Monitor Tamworth energy emails from website.*

Ellen:

- *Sign up and borrow OWL, Computer, Projector.*

Gabrielle:

- *Contact sponsors/Partners by August 19th and ask them to publicize the event.*

Tamworth Community Nurses Association (TCNA) Construction Project:

Gabrielle has discussed the new TCNA building project with June Aprille, TCNA's project manager.

TCNA has offered to lay conduit for two EV chargers as they begin the TCNA renovation/new building project. They have offered to pay the cost to lay the conduit for two level-two charging stations. (Each station could service two cars.)

Discussion:

~Could TEC find funding for the level-two charging stations?

~ Should we put out Request for Qualifications (RFQ) or Request for Proposals (RFP) to companies in the area?

Gabrielle has reached out to Melissa Elander, (North Country Circuit Rider for Clean Energy NH) for suggestions on how to proceed. Gabrielle has also asked the company doing the work on the project (Maine Electric) to send a quote.

David suggested contacting the larger companies. Companies such as ChargePoint may put in the posts free of charge if infrastructure is built. (In return, the company would put their name on the charging station; so that they could profit once the chargers are in use.)

David also recommended contacting Eversource.

- **Gabrielle** will continue researching funding and best practices for municipal EV projects.
- **John** will contact EV charging companies and develop a common set of questions to ask each company.
- **David** will contact Eversource.

Cook Memorial Library Meetings:

Chocorua Lakes Conservancy and the Cook Memorial Library have planned a series of meetings on climate change at the Cook Library.

~David will be the guest speaker at the October 25th meeting titled: What Can a Land Trust Do to Foster Climate Action? As part of the program, David hopes to highlight some of the TEC's work.

~The Tamworth Energy Committee will be guest speakers on September 27th.

Gabrielle suggested beginning with a brief explanation of Community Power in Tamworth. If adopted, the town could build up a reserve fund. What would Tamworth Residents like to see these funds used for? She hopes that participants will share their ideas/aspirations.

Our group could also highlight some of our other projects. Ted suggested beginning with a review of what the Energy Committee has done and is planning, so far.

Helping residents fund home Energy Upgrades:

NH currently has rebate programs that will help fund home energy upgrades. How do we get information to the public?

~TEC hopes to provide opportunities to learn about these programs through the Button Up Workshop.

~NH Saves website has a lot of information.

~As a follow up, TEC could offer a clinic for helping people fill out paperwork and applications. Interested people would need their heated home square footage and one year of their energy bills for the two primary energy sources (eg oil, gas, wood, electric).

~ TEC could post the power point and workshop recording of the Button Up workshop and also put more info on rebates and funding on the town website.

Tamworth Hydro Power:

~David had a recent conversation with Judith Reardon about obtaining a conservation easement on the Chocorua Dam Park property. (Judith and Peter Smart own the Chocorua Dam and surrounding property, Chocorua Park LLC).

~TEC hopes to sponsor a public meeting (perhaps through the Cook Library) and invite Peter Smart to talk about the Dam's history, its renovation and possible hydro-power future.

- *David K: will contact Judith and Peter Smart to try to set up a date for a community talk.*

Resource:

David shared a valuable website on Community Choice Aggregation.

Cal-cca.org serves public interest groups across California and represents joint power authorities.

StreetLights:

Ellen has spoken with several people in town about unnecessary streetlights.

TEC suggested directing the public concerns to the Tamworth SelectBoard.

- *Ellen will contact the members of the public and make this suggestion.*

Approval of July 24,2023 Minutes:

Unanimously approved.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:46 pm

Minutes E. Farnum