

Draft Tamworth Energy Committee Minutes
Jan. 3, 2024
Cook Memorial Library

Call to Order: 3:01

Present: Gabrielle Watson, John Kumm, Ellen Farnum

Approval of minutes from December 4, 2023

Motion: Gabrielle W., Second: John K., Vote: Unanimous

Community Power Presentation to Tamworth Selectboard

TEC members reviewed and discussed the Tamworth Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan. The plan is in good shape and has been reviewed by Andrew Hatch from Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH).

Gabrielle highlighted several new details:

- Note on the Status of Net Metering Customers: this was added to clarify current situation with Net Metering. CPCNH is working to get the utilities and the Public Utilities Company (PUC) to resolve this issue:

“At this time if you are a Net Metered customer, you will NOT be automatically enrolled into Tamworth Community Power until such time as electric distribution utilities are able to share net metering export data to allow for proper service and crediting of net metering exports to the grid. Tamworth Community Power and Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire are actively working with utilities and state regulators to resolve this issue. Once the data sharing issue is resolved, Tamworth Community Power will offer Net Metering rates and terms to compensate or credit customers for the electricity supply component of their net metered surplus generation. The remainder of this attachment describes net metering in further detail and is relevant for when the utility data sharing issues have been resolved.” (from the most recent draft of the Tamworth Community Power Plan.)

- Pricing

CPCNH has published its latest prices that go into effect in February, 2024. The new Granite Basic rate will be 2% lower than the rate offered by Eversource. According to Andrew hatch of CPCNH, *“Part of the Eversource reduction is a result of a 1.5 ¢ “reconciliation,” by which Eversource reimburses customers for overcollections from previous periods.”*

- Competitive/alternative energy customers:

Tamworth customers who are currently enrolled with a competitive energy supply company will not be automatically enrolled in the Tamworth Community Power program. They can however, easily ‘opt in’. Anyone can opt up from the Granite Basic rate to a higher percentage of renewables – 33%, 50% or 100%.

Gabrielle has sent the updated plan to Town Administrator Keats Meyer to share with the Selectboard members. (According to the Warrant Article that will be used at Town Meeting in March, the selectboard does not need to accept/endorse the plan but does need an opportunity to review it.)

Gabrielle will attend the Tamworth Selectboard meeting on Thursday, January 4th, 2024 to answer any questions.

To Do:

Gabrielle:

Post latest PDF Community Power Plan on the Tamworth town web site ASPA
Attend Selectboard meeting 1-4-24.

Update on Town Office & Library Energy Efficiency Investments.

Gabrielle met with Rick Moreau, Director of Tamworth Building Maintenance to discuss the proposed renovations needed to weatherize the Tamworth Town Office Building. They have recommended submitting a total budget request for \$18,225 for 2024.

1. Insulation/weatherization work:

The town has received two quotes on weatherization: the more expensive option would include insulation and a 'vapor barrier'.

Both Rick and Gabrielle recommend the lower priced option that will cover insulation (no vapor barrier). They believe the insulation alone will be sufficient.

2. Heat recovery ventilator:

The town has not received a quote for this yet, but the amount can be estimated based on a quote for heat recovery ventilators obtained for the library.

The proposed estimate for the Town Office Building \$13,000.

3. Solar Array

Gabrielle is recommending that the Selectboard wait on obtaining quotes for a solar array. She believes that the town should take stock of the total needs of the community and come up with a project that would serve more of the town buildings and potentially provide not only cost savings, but revenue to the town.

Getting bids and finding grant funding to offset the cost of installing air source heat pumps to replace the two upstairs furnaces that are near the end of their useful life should be a priority project for the TEC in 2024. John noted that supply chains are slow – another reason to prioritize this work.

Other Business:

TEC members discussed the upcoming video interview with Gabrielle on Community Power, hosted by the Conway Daily Sun publisher. Videos are posted to the CDS webpage. Gabrielle is hosting the NH Network monthly presentation on January 4, 2024 from 4:00 to 5:00 pm, which will feature Chris Skogland of Clean Energy NH talking about air quality in New Hampshire and priority areas to address ongoing concerns.

The NH Network web page is <https://www.newhampshirenetwork.org/>

To see the interview with the Conway Daily Sun Publisher, go to the home page of the Conway Daily Sun and scroll down, you see the videos. Or you can see all the interviews here: <https://www.conwaydailysun.com/interviews/>

Meeting Adjourned: 4:25

Minutes: E. Farnum