

MINUTES

Concord NH Community Power Committee
June 13, 2023

Present: Committee Members Rob Werner (Chair), Chuck Willing, Joseph Kwasnik, Byron Champlin and Tim Robson; also in attendance – Sam Evans-Brown, Beth Greenblatt, Beth Fenstermacher, Alec Bass, Tina Waterman and Brian LeBrun.

1. Chairman Werner called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM and made introductions.
2. Chair Werner discussed the goal of the committee is to move forward with creating a Community Power Aggregation plan and make a recommendation to the City Council.
3. The Committee discussed some of the aggregators/brokers/contractors that are currently working in New Hampshire, and specifically mentioned Freedom Energy in Bedford, Standard Power in Nashua, and Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire signing up communities throughout the state.

They also discussed how most residential customers in New Hampshire are currently on default service and could save money under an aggregation plan program. Under the plan, communities can elect the companies they receive power from; define the scope of renewal energy selections to solicit; and provide for residences and businesses to opt up, down or out of the program. Currently, it is estimated that approximately 90-95% of commercial customers are on competitive supply, and only approximately 20% of residential customers have a competitive supply agreement. All others are on default service.

The committee also discussed the number of communities in New Hampshire that have elected to participate in aggregation programs, and while only a few are currently running, many are working on their plans. A reference was made that the opt out program had a negative connotation and that educating the public is key to understanding and success of an aggregation program. Public meetings/hearings can address the issues.

It was discussed that the work of the committee was to have an aggregation plan prepared and recommend to the City Council how to move forward. The first step is to prepare the plan, which will need to be approved by the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

Sam Evans-Brown suggested that the committee itself write the plan, seek approval from the PUC, and then solicit bids for an aggregator.

The committee asked if any funding is in place for this program. No funding has been requested or approved by the City Council.

Chairman Werner spoke about preparing the plan first or having a public session first. The consensus was to prepare the plan first for citizens to have something to discuss.

4. Chairman Werner suggested that he, committee members Joe Kwasnik and Chuck Willing, and non-member Sam Evans Brown write the plan. They all agreed. Sam will send to the committee the PUC checklist, template, and other available tools for the aggregation plan. This subcommittee will work on the plan and bring back to the full committee. The committee will need to be registered with the PUC prior to submitting the plan to the PUC.
5. Beth Greenblatt, City Energy Consultant, advised that typically the best pricing for electricity supply is in the spring.
6. The next meeting date is to be determined.
7. The meeting adjourned at 2:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian G. LeBrun
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City of Concord, NH