

TOWN OF ALLENSTOWN
Community Power Committee
16 School Street
Allenstown, New Hampshire 03275
Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2022

Call to Order

The Allenstown Community Power Committee Meeting of December 13, 2022 was called to order by Scott McDonald at 5:34 PM.

Roll Call

Present on the Board: Scott McDonald, Ron Adinolfo, Derik Goodine, Brian Arsenault, Veronica Anaya, and Ryan Mahoney.

Excused: N/A

Residents of Allenstown: N/A

Allenstown Staff: N/A

Others present: Bob Hayden – President & CEO, Standard Power
Mike O'Meara – Volunteer Administration

Public Officials: None

Old Business

- None.

New Business

- Introductions

All present introduced themselves and stated their affiliations.

- Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Following some discussion, the following positions were voted and approved by the committee members:

Chair:

A motion was made by Brian Arsenault to elect Scott McDonald as Chair of the committee. Motion was seconded by Ron Adinolfo.

Vote:

Scott McDonald- Aye, Ron Adinolfo- Aye, Veronica Anaya- Aye, Brian Arsenault- Aye, Derik Goodine- Aye, and Ryan Mahoney- Aye.

Motion passed and Scott McDonald was elected as Chair of the committee.

Vice-Chair:

A motion was made by Brian Arsenault to elect Ron Adinolfo as Vice-Chair of the committee. Motion was seconded by Veronica Anaya.

Vote:

Scott McDonald- Aye, Ron Adinolfo- Aye, Veronica Anaya- Aye, Brian Arsenault- Aye, Derik Goodine- Aye, and Ryan Mahoney- Aye.

Motion passed and Ron Adinolfo was elected as Vice-Chair of the committee.

- Discussion

Derik Goodine introduced Mr. Robert (Bob) Hayden, President and CEO of Standard Power and invited him to explain the concept of Power Committees to the members, and also stated that this committee could potentially assist with power supply options for a possible new Town Highway Garage, including obtaining grants and the use of solar arrays.

Mr. Hayden stated that the first item to address was the committee's name, and that the name be changed to the Community Power Committee. Mr. Hayden also discussed the rules in the law surrounding power committees. Mr. Hayden advised that the law itself is approx. 20 years old and that residents used to have to "opt-in" to the program, but that in 2019 the law changed, and now residents are automatically included unless they choose to "opt-out". Mr. Hayden explained the background to the current law, and that the program allows all eligible residents to buy electricity at once, thereby helping to secure energy at a lower rate from suppliers, while also allowing residents to have a voice in the make up of the energy, for example, "greener" energy. Mr. Hayden also provided a brief history of the process so far in New Hampshire and the current status as of 2022. Mr. Hayden advised that although some work remained to be done around the rules, that it was possible to proceed with executing the program.

Mr. Hayden stated that currently, his company has four (4) such plans completed, with one approved by the NH Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and 3 others imminent. Mr. Hayden also discussed other communities, such as Allentown, that may want to have plans in place for the Mar-Apr 2023 timeframe.

It was initially believed that the Allentown plan would have to be ready for the Town Deliberative Session in Feb 2023, and Mr. Hayden advised that this was on the edge of impossibility. He also explained that if the committee wanted to take a more leisurely approach, that Nov 2023 could also be looked at as a possible date. Mr. Hayden advised that he mentioned the Mar & Nov 2023 dates, as those are the times when it is historically cheaper to buy energy. Mr. McDonald asked why it is cheaper to buy electricity just prior to heating season, and Mr. Hayden advised that it is during heating season when shortages occur, thereby driving up prices, and he also provided a brief history of why that is so, advising that the price of natural gas is essentially an hour-by-hour market, and is the dominant factor in the price of electricity, comprising over 50% of the cost of making electricity in NH. Mr. Hayden advised that those prices were about to increase substantially in the marketplace as cold weather sets in.

Other factors include constriction in the amount of natural gas that can be physically delivered to NH via the existing pipelines and the extra costs associated with other generating plants (such as the Bow plant) coming online to sustain supply. Such plants typically cost more to generate the electricity necessary to help prevent a shortfall in supply.

After further discussion around dates, it was clarified that any plan for Allentown would have to be ready in time to be placed before the residents at the March 2023 Town Meeting, including meeting the timing and pre-requisite dates for items such as posting of a Warrant Article and other legal requirements.

A Community Survey was also discussed, and Mr. Hayden advised that his company would help to generate an approx. 12 question survey for residents. Mr. Goodine discussed digital distribution of the survey, but Mr. O'Meara asked about those residents of the Town who may not have access to such methods. Following further discussion, it was agreed that both a digital and hard-copy approach would be employed, with some committee members doing outreach via the Community Center and perhaps the Parish Bulletin to publicize the availability of the survey.

Mr. Hayden that there are two (2) statutory meetings that must be held. He advised that one is typically held when the plan is developed (with 2 public sessions – lunchtime and early evening are suggested for maximum community engagement). Current plans are to hold public sessions in mid-January 2023 after survey responses have been collected.

- Committee Name Change:

Chair McDonald made a motion to change the name of the committee from the Allenstown Energy Committee to the Allenstown Community Power Committee and retain all officers already elected. Motion was seconded by Veronica Anaya.

Roll call vote was taken:

Scott McDonald- Aye, Ron Adinolfo- Aye, Veronica Anaya- Aye, Brian Arsenault- Aye, Derik Goodine- Aye, and Ryan Mahoney- Aye.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Mission Statement:

Following discussion and input from Mr. Hayden regarding renewable energy, Chair McDonald made a motion to adopt the following Mission Statement:

"To provide the best electricity value for the citizens of Allenstown while providing choices in renewable energy."

The motion was seconded by Ron Adinolfo.

Roll call vote was taken:

Scott McDonald- Aye, Ron Adinolfo- Aye, Veronica Anaya- Aye, Brian Arsenault- Aye, Derik Goodine- Aye, and Ryan Mahoney- Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, and the Mission Statement was adopted.

- Remote Attendance

Following discussions, and subject to there being a quorum of members physically present at the meeting location, Chair McDonald made the following motion:

"Members and the general public that cannot attend in person can attend the meetings electronically."

The motion was seconded by Veronica Anaya.

Roll call vote was taken:

Scott McDonald- Aye, Ron Adinolfo- Aye, Veronica Anaya- Aye, Brian Arsenault- Aye, Derik Goodine- Aye, and Ryan Mahoney- Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, and Remote Attendance was approved.

Unapproved Minutes

- **N/A – First Meeting of the Committee**

Correspondence or Other Business

- None

Scheduling of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for December 20 at 12:00 noon.

Adjourn

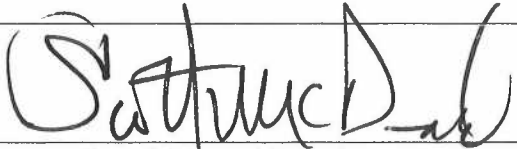



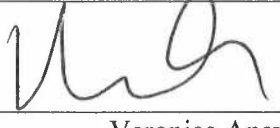
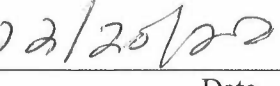


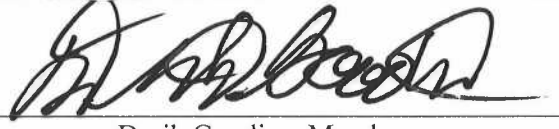


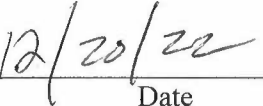
Derik Goodine made a motion to adjourn. Ron Adinolfo seconded the motion.

Roll call vote was taken:

Scott McDonald- Aye, Ron Adinolfo- Aye, Veronica Anaya- Aye, Brian Arsenault- Aye, Derik Goodine- Aye, and Ryan Mahoney- Aye.

The Motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:37pm.

SIGNATURE PAGE
Allenstown Community Power Committee
December 13, 2022

Approval:	
	
Scott McDonald, Chair	Date
	
Ron Adinolfo, Vice Chair	Date
	
Veronica Anaya, Member	Date
	
Brian Arsenault, Member	Date
	
Derik Goodine, Member	Date
	
Ryan Mahoney, Member	Date