

TOWN OF ALLENSTOWN
Community Power Aggregation Committee
16 School Street
Allenstown, New Hampshire 03275
Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2023

Call to Order

The Allenstown Community Power Aggregation Committee Meeting of January 10, 2023 was called to order by Chair Scott McDonald at 12:03 pm. Chair McDonald called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

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

Excused: N/A

Residents of Allenstown: N/A

*Mr. Turcotte arrived at 12:20pm

Others present: Theresa MacDowell – Standard Power (remote & alone)
Emily Manns – Standard Power*
Austin LeDuke – AFD
Benjamin Hussey - AFD
Mike O'Meara – Volunteer Administration

*Ms. Manns arrived at approx. 12:20 PM

Public Officials: None

Old Business

- None.

New Business

- **Finalize Community Survey**

The revised Community Power Survey was reviewed and reflected the changes requested at the previous meeting, with the exception that it was explained the “Square” checks marks indicated multiple choice answers, whereas “Round” check marks indicated only one answer. The Committee requested no further changes to the survey.

Brian Arsenault made a motion to approve the Community Power Survey as presented. The motion was seconded by Stephen LaPorte.

Roll Call Vote was taken:

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

The motion passed unanimously, and the Community Power Survey was approved.

- **Finalize Community Power Plan**

The revised Community Power Plan was reviewed and it was determined that it reflected the changes and updates previously requested by the Committee. It was acknowledged that the “Survey Results” section of

the document would remain incomplete until the results of the survey were compiled. No other changes were requested by the Committee.

Brian Arsenault made a motion to approve the Community Power Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Stephen LaPorte.

Roll Call Vote was taken:

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

The motion passed unanimously, and the Community Power Survey was approved.

- Questions & Concerns from the Community

- During the discussion on the Community Survey, Chair McDonald asked a clarifying question regarding having to “opt-out” of participating and inquired about the best response to that question from residents. Ms. MacDowell advised that although she is relatively new to Standard Power, to her understanding the program has been around for a few years and previously that participation in it was by “opt-in”, which resulted in no community power projects being put in place. In 2021, a legislative change was made to have the program be “opt-out”, which helped move the program forward by automatically including those consumers who had no preference of which electric supplier provided their service, while allowing those consumers who preferred, or already had an alternate or third-party supplier to avail of those options.
- Mr. Adinolfo asked a follow-up question while advising that he had a lengthy discussion with a town resident regarding the program and outlined the residents’ questions and concerns to the Standard Power representative then currently present at the meeting.
 - Mr. Adinolfo asked that if a resident is already with a third-party provider (i.e. Direct Energy, etc.), would those residents receive a notification about the program in the mail, and asked if it was correct that those residents would not be forced to participate in the program until their current contracts expired? After some clarifying discussion, Ms. MacDowell confirmed that residents with existing third-party providers would not be forced to participate in the Community Power Program as they are not eligible at this time.
 - Mr. Adinolfo also asked about the notification process, in particular about residents with existing third-party providers receiving the planned notification and “opt-out” card. Ms. MacDowell advised that she believed that to be the case but would confirm and agreed that it could be confusing to residents who have providers other than the current default provider. Mr. Adinolfo stated it should be very clear to any resident receiving a notification that this does not apply to them if they are currently with a third-party provider. It was again reiterated that residents with third-party suppliers would not be forced to participate in the Community Power Program.
 - Mr. Adinolfo asked a follow-up question about the source of the mailing list information for the notifications that will be sent to residents. Ms. MacDowell advised that the meters list would come from Unitil, NH Electric Co-Op and Eversource, who are already aware of third-party sources. Ms. MacDowell advised that she was unsure if it was a requirement that all residents be notified, and that clarification was needed on this item.
 - Mr. Adinolfo further asked that for the next meeting, information be provided on whether there had been any confusion on this and if any consumers had been mistakenly been switched from their third-party provider to a Community Power Program, and if so, how is that handled. Ms. MacDowell advised that no community power programs are yet active in NH, but participating communities (incl. Allentown) will be starting the program in the April-May timeframe, if approved at the March 2023 Town Meeting.

- Mr. Arsenault and Mr. Goodine also provided input from existing documentation where it states that the program applies to consumers that are not already on competitive electricity supply, which is further supported by the Questions and Answers documentation.
- Chair McDonald asked if the term “competitive supply” would be an adequate descriptor for residents and that a concern would be automatic enrollment in the program, potentially at a higher rate than their current rate, for a resident already with a third-party supplier. Chair McDonald wanted to ensure that this question is adequately answered for taxpayers.
 - Mr. Adinolfo asked a follow-up question about who would pay the difference if a resident was accidentally switched to the Community Power Program at a higher rate than with their third-party supplier, and how is that handled? Mr. Adinolfo also stated a concern that meter lists from Unitil, NH Co-Op and Eversource may contain errors, and how does Standard Power validate that those lists are correct. Ms. MacDowell advised that the expectation is that the utility companies would have accurate information and that if any such errors were to occur, consumers could be switched back once any errors became known. In such a case, Mr. Adinolfo was concerned that a third-party supplier may not honor the original rate if a consumer was switched back.
- Mr. Arsenault asked Chair McDonald if Ms. MacDowell could reach out to Mr. Hayden on these outstanding questions. Mr. O’Meara also reminded those present about the two Public Hearings on January 23rd and asked if Ms. MacDowell could take the lead in having answers ready to the questions and concerns raised at this meeting for those hearings. There was further discussion on when these answers should be available with Mr. Adinolfo advocating for them in advance of the public hearings. Ms. MacDowell also suggested that a handout with these questions and answers might be beneficial.
- Chair McDonald confirmed with Ms. MacDowell that the matter of accidental switching of a consumer had not yet occurred in NH, and also asked if source information comes from one or more databases, and stated a concern about the accuracy of such information. Ms. MacDowell stated that the data has not yet been received by Standard Power, but that it will come from existing utility companies, and that the question of accuracy was an open topic.

Ms. Emily Manns of Standard Power joined the meeting in-person at approx.. 12:20 PM, and the forgoing questions and concerns were again addressed to her, with essentially the same answers as provided by Ms. MacDowell. The Committee will look to address these again during the public hearing phase of the program on January 23rd.

Unapproved Minutes

• January 03, 2023

Brian Arsenault made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 03, 2023 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Stephen Laporte.

Roll Call Vote was taken:

Scott McDonald- Aye, Ron Adinolfo- Abstain, Veronica Anaya- Aye, Brian Arsenault- Aye, Derik Goodine- Aye, Stephen LaPorte- Aye, Jim Rodger- Aye, and Ryan Mahoney- Aye.

The motion passed and the minutes for January 03, 2023 were approved as written.

Correspondence or Other Business

• N/A

Scheduling of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2023 at 12:00 noon.

Adjourn

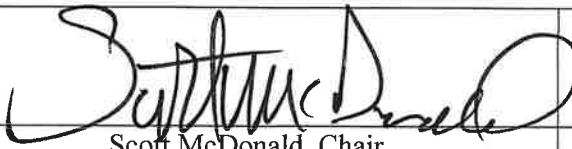
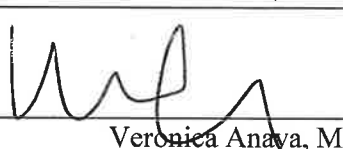



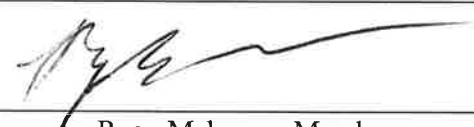
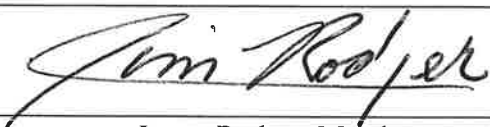
Brian Arsenault made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Stephen LaPorte.

Roll Call Vote was taken:

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

The Motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 PM.

SIGNATURE PAGE
Allenstown Community Power Aggregation Committee
January 10, 2023

Approval:	
 Scott McDonald, Chair	1/24/2023 Date
EXCUSED Ron Adinolfo, Vice Chair	N/A Date
 Veronica Anaya, Member	1/24/23 Date
 Brian Arsenault, Member	01/24/23 Date
 Derik Goodine, Member	1/24/2023 Date
 Stephen LaPorte, Member	01/24/23 Date
 Ryan Mahoney, Member	1/24/23 Date
 James Rodger, Member	1/24/23 Date