

TOWN OF ALLENSTOWN
Community Power Aggregation Committee
16 School Street
Allenstown, New Hampshire 03275
Meeting Minutes
January 03, 2023

Call to Order

The Allenstown Community Power Aggregation Committee Meeting of January 03, 2023 was called to order by Chair Scott McDonald at 12:04 pm. Chair McDonald called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

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

*Mr. LaPorte arrived at 12:15pm due to a prior AFD fire call

Excused: Ron Adinolfo

Residents of Allenstown: Alan Turcotte*

*Mr. Turcotte arrived at 12:20pm

Allenstown Staff: N/A

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

Public Officials: None

Old Business

- None.

New Business

- **Community Power Fund**

Mr. Hayden confirmed that he has secured contributions to the fund from two (2) external sources. Mr. Goodine again confirmed that appropriate methods were in place for the acceptance of such funds, and that arrangements could be made for their acceptance.

- **Review Draft of Community Survey**

Mr. Arsenault led a review and interactive discussion of the proposed Community Power Survey that was provided by Ms. MacDowell. The survey had been condensed from 12 to 10 questions and a two-page hard-copy version was provided for review. Mr. Arsenault reviewed each question individually, and following review and discussion with Committee Members and representatives of Standard Power, the following changes were requested by the Committee:

- *Reformat the survey to a one-page, ten question format per the notes taken at the Jan 03, 2023 meeting.*
- *Ensure Square shaped "Check Boxes" are used throughout and change any references to circling answers to checking answers.*
- *Question 2 - revise introduction to state "Eversource is our primary electric utility,"*
- *Survey Demographics - add "Prefer Not to Answer" as an option to questions 8, 9 & 10, or add a "global" option to skip this section of the survey.*

- Review Draft of Community Power Plan

Mr. Arsenault, Mr. Hayden and Ms. MacDowell led a review and interactive discussion of the proposed Community Power Plan. Each question was reviewed individually, and following review and discussion with Committee Members and representatives of Standard Power, the following changes to the plan were requested by the Committee:

- *Page 1 of 18 - Insert the following Mission Statement - To provide the best electricity value for the citizens of Allenstown while providing choices in renewable energy*
- *Page 2 of 18 - Completion is pending the survey results*
- *Page 4 of 18 - Insert November 28, 2022 as the date that the Select Board voted to establish the Committee*
- *Page 18 of 18 - Other Highlighted areas on Page 18 are acceptable as written*
- *Exhibit I - Page 1 of 2 - Insert November 28, 2022 as the creation date of the Committee*
- *Exhibit II - Page 2 of 5 - Delete the last sentence in the last paragraph of Page 2 in its entirety. Other highlighted areas on Page 2 are acceptable as written*
- *Exhibit II - Page 4 of 5 - Highlighted areas on Page 4 are acceptable as written*
- *Exhibit III - Add Page #'s to this exhibit*

No other changes were requested by the Committee.

Mr. Turcotte had several questions during the review of the Power Plan. In particular, Mr. Turcotte inquired or had concerns about the following:

- That the process required town residents to “opt-out”, rather than “opt-in”. Mr. Turcotte stated that he was not in favor of this and that the decision to participate should be to “opt-in” rather than “opt-out”. Mr. Hayden advised that the governing RSA for the state-wide program specifically provided for the “opt-out” option only, and that provision would be made for residents to be able to opt-out when they received notification about the program in the coming weeks. He advised that both digital, telephonic, and hard-copy methods (a return card) would be available. Mr. Turcotte remained concerned that residents would discard the return card and not opt-out. Mr. Hayden stated that if residents do not respond (i.e. do nothing), then they will automatically avail of the Community Power Rate. He also stated that the program would not launch unless the rate is lower than the current rate from the default electric supplier. Mr. Hayden additionally advised that residents could opt-out or opt-in to the program at any time. He also advised that commercial entities or entities that had existing contracts with a third-party supplier would typically have to wait until those contracts expired to take advantage of the program. Mr. Hayden also advised that the Community Power Program is usually on a two-year renewal cycle.
- Mr. Turcotte also expressed concern about the proposed methods for gathering responses to the Community Survey portion of the program. Apart from the proposed digital and hard-copy methods, he was particularly concerned about his ability to effectively engage with residents who visited the Town Transfer Station on a Saturday when he is there alone. Mr. Turcotte stated that he did not feel that he could manage this alone, while also performing his assigned duties at the Transfer Station. Following discussions with Committee Members, Mr. McDonald, and Mr. Goodine both advised Mr. Turcotte that help would be provided in the form of additional personnel at the Transfer Station to help apprise residents of the Program, the Community Survey, and gather responses.
- In his capacity as Sewer Commissioner, Mr. Turcotte also inquired about the ability of the Sewer Commission to participate in the Community Power Program. Mr. Hayden advised that as the Sewer Commission is currently under contract with a third-party provider, they would not be eligible to participate at this time and would have to wait until the expiration of that contract and the next renewal cycle of this program before being in a position to avail itself of the Community Power Program. He

stated that such entities cannot opt in and out of the program as residents can unless they are unserved by a provider.

- Warrant Article Language for Town Meeting Vote

Mr. O'Meara read the text of the proposed Warrant Article to be submitted for vote at the March 2023 Town Meeting:

***ARTICLE # - TBD:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Allenstown Community Power Aggregation Committee Plan, which authorizes the Select Board to develop and implement Allenstown Community Power as described therein (pursuant to RSA 53-E:7). The program would provide a new default electric supply and new renewable energy supply options for customers in Allenstown. There is no cost to the Town budget, and no obligation to participate. Customers can opt out at any time and return to utility default service. The Select Board recommends this article. Majority vote required.*

Stephen LaPorte made a motion to approve the language of the Warrant Article as read by Mr. O'Meara. The motion was seconded by Brian Arsenault.

Roll Call Vote was taken:

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

The motion passed unanimously, and the Warrant Article Notice language was approved.

- Public Hearing Date

The initial proposed date of January 09, 2023 did not provide sufficient time for public notice of the hearing to be published. Mr. O'Meara proposed that both sessions of the Public Hearing be held on Monday, January 23, 2023, with Session #1 being held at 12:00pm and Session #2 being held at 6:00pm as part of the regular Select Board Meeting. Both sessions are to be held at the Town Hall. The Committee agreed and Mr. O'Meara read the proposed text of the Public Hearing Notice:

A public hearing will be held by the Allenstown Community Power Aggregation Committee at the Allenstown Town Hall at 16 School Street, Allenstown, NH on the 23rd day of January, 2023. The purpose of the meeting is to provide commentary on the program and the plan.

The public hearing will be held in two (2) sessions. Session #1 will commence at or about 12:00 PM, and Session #2 will commence at or about 6:00 PM on the proposal to create and adopt a Community Power Plan for the Town of Allenstown in which all residents will automatically participate by state law, or may choose to opt out. The effect of the proposed plan will be to purchase electricity for the Town at a reduced rate than that available from the current default provider.

A copy of the proposed plan is available for review at Allenstown Town Hall, 16 School Street, during normal business hours: Monday through Thursday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. The plan is also available online at <https://www.allenstownnh.gov/allenstown-community-power-aggregation-committee>. Phone (603) 485-4276.

Scott McDonald made a motion to approve the language of the Public Notice as read by Mr. O'Meara. The motion was seconded by Stephen LaPorte.

Roll Call Vote was taken:

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

The motion passed unanimously, and the Public Notice language was approved.

Unapproved Minutes

- **December 20, 2022**

Brian Arsenault made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2022 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Stephen Laporte.

Roll Call Vote was taken:

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

The motion passed and the minutes for December 20, 2022 were approved as written.

Correspondence or Other Business

- N/A

Scheduling of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2023 at 12:00 noon.

Adjourn

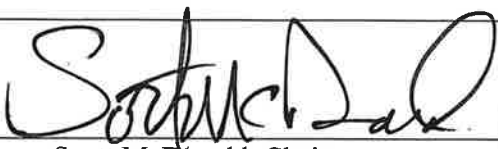
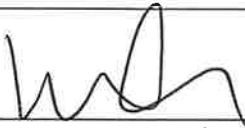
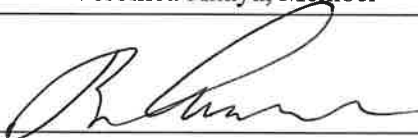
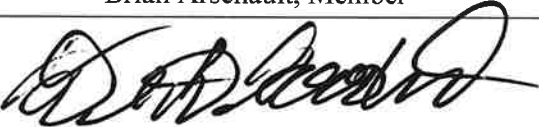


Brian Arsenault made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Stephen LaPorte.

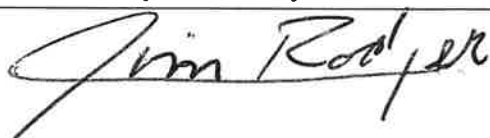
Roll Call Vote was taken:

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

The Motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:34 pm.

SIGNATURE PAGE
Allenstown Community Power Aggregation Committee
January 03, 2023

Approval:	
	1/10/23
Scott McDonald, Chair	Date
ABSTAIN	N/A.
Ron Adinolfo, Vice Chair	Date
	1/10/23
Veronica Anaya, Member	Date
	1/10/23
Brian Arsenault, Member	Date
	1/10/23
Derik Goodine, Member	Date
	1/10/23
Stephen LaPorte, Member	Date
	1/10/23
Ryan Mahoney, Member	Date



1/10/23