

WALPOLE POWER COMMITTEE  
Minutes  
May 4, 2022

Paul Looney, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 pm in Walpole Town Hall. Present were Peter Dexter, Kara Dexter, Dennis Marcom Andrew Dey, Rod Bouchard, and Peggy Pschirrer. Absent were Steve Grenier and Patrick Kiniry. Kara Dexter managed the Zoom session.

Mr. Looney described the proposal Ben Hoy, Director of Walpole recycling, had made in a Sustainability Plan for Walpole which would have installed solar panels with a life of 25 years at the Recycling Center.

Robert Hayden of Standard Power of America was the guest speaker for this meeting. Mr. Looney introduced him and reported the results of our community survey indicated that 50% of those who responded want cheaper power and 50% want greener Power. They want something less expensive than our default choices.

The NH PUC has not completed the rules for power aggregation plans so Walpole's Aggregation Plan has not been submitted for approval. Mr. Hayden follows closely the activities of the PUC.

In 2019 Standard attempted to put in an opt out plan but were not successful. PUC has made it difficult for suppliers. Eversource as a power company killed HB 315.

Community Power of Keene sent RFPs in May 2021 which included possible options: a default rate for power; 50 % renewable or 100% renewable. Keene has chosen to manage its own program with Standard.

The NH Budget Bill included the Department of Energy as well as the PUC. The Department is understaffed. The DOE will have a set of approved rules which may be acceptable to stake holders.

Standard Power is ready to launch its programs; it can do now what competitors such as CPCNH want to do. For instance, Keene already has reserves of \$20,000.

Swanzy is working on a twenty-acre parcel for solar – which will be in line for their own power usage. It will be implemented without rules.

How does Keene already have a reserve fund. Standard has renewable power through Hydroelectric and solar. Swanzy has Power Purchase agreement.

Where could Walpole find land for a solar field?

Marlow has hydro power from its dam in the Village.

Walpole must look to buy local renewable energy credits. EPA with existing NH hydros can help towns get grants to rebuild. Standard fits well with Community power.

Mr. Dey stated that Community Power in Walpole could buy renewable energy credits which plus solar would be cheaper than default rates.

Standard is not going to net metering.

Standard already has good energy purchases from NH, RI and MA.

NEISO has good energy customers in MA and RI, part of a group purchase. Spring and fall are the best times to buy power.

Standard already has purchase in MA and RI but not yet in NH. Base costs are the same across all three states. Standard has already had contracts in some towns for two years. Contracts vary.

Standard has recovered two dams, Eversource, one.

Standard has established suppliers with a percentage of renewable. Swanzey's solar field is a PILOY Program. A Swanzey Developer called Standard to purchase power over a long-term agreement.

Standard can beat Eversource by 2 cents. If Eversource goes up, we can do less.

Standard can buy 5 mg without group net metering. Standard puts groups of communities together.

Eversource charges: 6.6 per kilowatt and 8.8 per kilowatt and projects it will be 14 Per kilowatt by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Standard can buy electron renewable energy credits for 12 cents. We are two cents ahead. When the rate was 8 cents, if we bought 10% at 12 cents and 90% at 8 cents, .4 would be added for 100%.

Buying out solar farms at 12% is cheaper than electricity.

Mr. Hayden suggested we find a benevolent investor. Do we have some wealthy investors?

Batteries were discussed. Laws do not support batteries/storage. NH has no storage. In MA storage makes sense.

NE Iso in a financial war with MA. NH could use offshore winds for power. Utilities make money on transmission. Mr. Hayden said that local projects would do better than offshore projects.

Local energy is easier to help blackouts. Need a resilience zone for PD, Fire, hospitals etc.

Standard is a broker; they already do what CPCNH wants to do.

Mr. Looney thanks Mr. Hayden for speaking to us.

Mr. Looney stated Walpole needs a Sustainability Goal by 2030.

Bart Fromanuth will attend our next meeting; he is from Freedom Power. Revision Energy is another group we could hear from.

Mr. Grenier is not a fan of Power Purchase agreements. He prefers buying power outright.

Twenty people in Charlestown had a group net metering agreement. Each member puts up a certain number of panels and gets a reduced rate on electricity.

CPCNH has a new president: Cliff Below. Chris Parker is VP, Dorie Brown is Secretary and Kim Quirk is Treasurer.

Walpole still needs three phase power. Could we add it to the old town landfill?