

Westmoreland Community Power Committee

Minutes

November 9th 2022 Unapproved

Members Present

Alan Bell, Mark Terry, Chris Ballou, Melissa Bonito, Terry Cox

Public Present

John Snowdon (Board of Selectman Representative)

7pm Meeting Started by Mark Terry

Mark spoke about the Zoom meeting he had with Henry Herndon, the CPCNH representative and asked all the committee members to read the notes he sent on October 26.

715pm Alan Bell Moved that we make Mark Terry the chair. 2nd by Terry Cox.

A unanimous vote was taken, and Mark Terry was made chair.

Mark then told the committee that Kathy Cox has agreed to help with the public information/education aspect of the community power program.

The committee members had a robust conversation about what how the CPCNH works and what it would mean for people who already had provider contracts in place? Just a few of the question were, How does opt out work? What about Net Metering or people with Solar? Will they get the same rates that they are getting from Eversource? What happens to your credits (if you have solar panels) if you opt out? How does the coalition generate money for the fund? How is that fund money utilized? The committee agreed that it would be beneficial to have Henry Herndon present at the next meeting to help answer these and other questions definitively.

725pm The Three options were discussed and

John Snowdon helped to explain the advantages/disadvantages of each option.

Option 1: Westmoreland (stand-alone) was somewhat a legacy option which really doesn't seem like the best choice for a small town like ours. We would have to draft and create all the policies from scratch and has the potential downside that a small town like Westmoreland would not be able leverage the size a larger group would create.

Option 2: Join Cheshire County

This option seemed a bit better to the members except when Westmoreland Town representation was factored in, Westmoreland would lack a say on projects and the future direction of the CPCNH.

Option 3: Join the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH)

Of the three options this made the most sense to all committee members. It would allow Westmoreland a say in CPCNH and give the town the greatest flexibility when it comes to the direction of the coalition.

801PM Chris Balou made a motion to select option number 3 as a path forward for the community of Westmoreland, NH. The motion was 2nd by Terry Cox.

A vote was taken, and Option number 3 was adopted unanimously.

Mark Terry then went over the remaining items on the agenda briefly and the roadmap ahead for us:

- o Invite CPCNH Representative to next committee meeting*
- o Invite CPCNH representative to BOS December 1 meeting*
- o WCPAC researches Community Power plans and service providers*
- o WCPAC develops a Community Power Plan, with input from the community*
- o WCPAC holds public hearings to inform and educate the town about the Community Power Plan and get resident's feedback*
- o Residents vote to approve WCPAC plan*
- o Town sends an announcement to the residents that they will be enrolled in a new Community Power plan and provides them an opportunity to opt-out of the program*
- o Town signs a Community Power contract with a service provider and, together, they launch the program*

The committee then discussed the next meeting date and decided to make up a doodle poll in order to facilitate a mutually beneficial date for everyone.

828PM Alan Bell moved that the meeting be closed. Mark Terry 2nd and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Alan Bell committee member and Clerk