

Town of Dublin Energy Committee Meeting
Wednesday, August 23, 2023
7 PM at Town Hall, ground floor

In attendance:

In person: James Finnegan, Blake Minckler, Jack Munn, Susan Peters (Select Board).

Community Power. Susan provided an update on Cheshire Community Power. The Select Board voted on August 14 to opt into the plan. Nelson and Fitzwilliam have also voted to opt into Cheshire Community Power. Susan has agreed to serve on the Cheshire Community Power Governance Council, with Jack serving as the alternate. Representatives from Cheshire County and the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire are working on flyers to be distributed in participating communities. A public information session will be held for all Dublin residents in the fall.

Municipal Solar. Discussion followed about next steps in exploring possible municipal solar sites. There are three sites under consideration: the capped landfill, and roofs at the Town Highway Barn and Fire Station. Research is needed into the ages of the Highway Barn and Fire Department roofs. Town Archivist, Nancy Campbell, could help with this. The checklist provided by John Kondos is helpful in figuring out the process and next steps and priorities. For the capped landfill, we will need to work with an engineer to advise on site characteristics and the design and permitting processes. Jack has engineering contacts and will follow up to explore some engineering options.

Blake felt that it may be better to start small in terms of a municipal solar project. Greg Blake of South Pack Solar could help plan a build out at one or more town sites. John Kondos can help with the grant process. A municipal solar installation will require planning and oversight, consideration of risks and insurance, and maintenance and repair. Some of the Dublin School's panels were damaged in the recent tornado. Dublin will need to determine what is the break even point. Trees may need to be cut on Town-owned land, for example at the Highway Barn, and this will involve expense which could potentially be offset if the harvested trees have value.

June 28, July 12, and August 2, 2023 minutes

On motion made by Blake and seconded by James, the minutes of the June 28 meeting were approved. On motion made by James and seconded by Susan, the minutes of the July 12 site visits were approved. On motion made by James and seconded by Blake, the minutes of the August 2, 2023 meeting were approved.

Action item - Municipal Solar. Committee members will follow up with research at the Archives and into possible engineering support.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Susan W. Peters