

Town of Dublin Energy Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 22, 2023
7 PM at Town Hall, ground floor

In attendance:

In person: James Finnegan, Blake Minckler, Susan Peters (Select Board), Bronson Shonk, Mary Shonk.

Community Power. There was discussion of the community power warrant article voted on at Town Meeting on March 18. At the meeting, Susan gave some background about community power and the Cheshire County Power Plan, and an overview of the Dublin survey conducted in the winter. A number of residents raised questions, and one resident expressed concern about whether the possible effects of community power on distribution costs and infrastructure. After discussion, the warrant article passed. The first NH cities and towns will be launching community power in May and June, offering competitive electricity pricing and the option of more renewables sourcing than major utilities.

Residents have been inquiring about how community power works if you have solar panels on your property. Dori Drachman (Monadnock Sustainability Hub and Peterborough PREP) recently advised us:

- To start, solar customers will not be automatically enrolled and we recommend that, if a solar owner sells electricity to the grid (i.e. net meter), they do not opt in right now. The utilities are not complying with the law to allow CP programs to offer net metering. The Community Power Coalition of NH is working hard to pressure the utilities to comply with the law.
- If you have solar panels and do not produce enough to sell back to the grid, it makes sense to opt in.

Solar Panel on April 26. Over the past year, the Committee began exploring municipal and residential solar. There was consensus that it would be helpful to learn from local residents and industry professionals about their experiences with solar. Discussion followed about who might be interested in participating in a panel discussion at the Committee's next meeting on April 26. Members agreed to reach out friends and neighbors known to have experience with solar as well as to Greg Blake of South Pack Solar and John Kondos, Clean Energy NH Circuit Rider for our region.

The Committee brainstormed some of the possible topics for the panel to consider:

- Net metering?

- How to ensure the full potential of your panels - vendor contracts may limit your options
- Different plans - leasing panels vs owning panels
- What happens when there's a power outage?
- Inflation Reduction Act - what are the savings and who's eligible?
- Storage batteries - how do they work?

It would be helpful to have an information handout to help people navigate - not prepared by a vendor. Keene Planner Mari Brunner or the Monadnock Sustainability Hub may have resources for this.

March 1, 2023 minutes

On motion made by James and seconded by Blake, the minutes of the March 1, 2023 minutes were approved as amended.

Action items:

1. **Solar Panel** - reach out to residents and industry professionals to see about interest in participating in the panel discussion on Wednesday, April 26. Look into having an information packet available for residents.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 26 at 7 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Susan W. Peters