

Town of Dublin Energy Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, March 1, 2023  
7 PM at Town Hall, ground floor

In attendance:

In person: Allen Hearn, Blake Minckler, Jack Munn, Susan Peters (Select Board), and June Brening.

**Community Power.** Jack shared the composite results of the 30 community power surveys completed online. The results use pie charts and graphs to track the responses. Susan will look into inputting the 14 paper surveys collected from the boxes at Town Hall and the Dublin Community Center. Jack offered to present a brief summary of the 44 surveys at Town Meeting.

The community power warrant article will be the first warrant article discussed at Town Meeting. The warrant article offers the opportunity to gauge community interest, and for people to ask questions. Committee members agreed that it would be very helpful to get updated information from Cheshire County about how their community power plan will work for municipalities, businesses, and residents, for example different energy supply choices in terms of pricing and use of renewables. Jack stated the warrant article offers an opportunity, and we will see what happens in terms of community interest. Blake pointed out that education is very important and one of the hardest aspects.

Susan reported Dori Drachman (Peterborough Renewable Energy Planning and the Monadnock Sustainability Hub) is working with the County and the Community Power Coalition of NH on developing the plan details. Susan agreed to follow up with Dori to confirm whether she will be able to provide support at Town Meeting.

Members raised questions about how the County plan will work. (1) If a resident currently has an electricity supply contract with a third party, are there penalties and/or notice periods to break the contract? (2) If a resident has solar panels, how does this work with community power? (3) What is Cheshire County's timeline for going live with community power? (4) If Dublin opts into Cheshire County Community Power, who will serve as Dublin's representative to the County Community Power Committee? It is important to enlist more volunteers to serve on our Energy Committee. The Committee has been fortunate to have industry professionals come on a volunteer basis to speak.

Susan encouraged everyone to attend the pre-Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 7 (snow date March 8), with refreshments at 7 pm and the business meeting at 7:30 pm.



**Solar.** Over the past year, the Committee began exploring municipal solar. An important next step is to invite a consultant to do an assessment of Town land and buildings. Jack and Allen suggested Greg Blake of South Pack Solar as someone who might be able to help. He works with municipalities and businesses, and put in a solar array for the Town of Nelson. He also advertises in the Dublin Advocate. Jack agreed to contact Greg to see if he is available to attend the Committee's next meeting on March 22.

**Energy Audit.** Blake pointed out the importance of doing an energy audit when planning for improvements on Town properties to determine what the projected energy savings would be.

**January 26, 2023 minutes**

On motion made by Blake and seconded by Jack, the minutes of the January 26, 2023 minutes were approved as amended.

**Action items:**

1. **Municipal Solar.** Jack will contact Greg Blake of South Pack Solar.
2. **Town Meeting.** Susan will follow up about getting updated information about the Cheshire County Community Power Plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22 at 7 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Susan W. Peters