

Town of Dublin Public Hearing  
Hosted by the Select Board and Energy Committee  
Wednesday, August 2, 2023  
7 PM at Town Hall, ground floor

In attendance:

In person: Carole Monroe (Select Board); Susan Peters (Select Board and Energy Committee); Energy Committee members James Finnegan, Blake Minckler, and Jack Munn; Cheshire County Commissioner Terry Clark; Henry Herndon, consultant to the Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH); John Kondos (Clean Energy NH); and Dublin residents

**Community Power.** The Select Board and Energy Committee hosted the hearing to discuss the Cheshire County Community Power Plan, known as Cheshire Community Power. Henry provided an overview and handout (attached), and answered many questions from residents. Terry shared additional information from the Cheshire Community Power Forum on May 24, 2023. Henry explained that Eversource will continue to deliver electricity using their poles and wires, provide billing services, and ensure reliability.

Cheshire County is partnering with CPCNH, a non-profit power supplier which is pooling community purchasing power. Harrisville and Peterborough are purchasing energy from CPCNH under the terms of their own community power plans. Nelson has joined Dublin in opting into Cheshire Community Power. Other neighboring communities including Hancock and Marlborough have also adopted community power plans. Terry explained that communities choosing to join Cheshire Community Power will appoint voting representation to the Cheshire Community Power Governance Council

Below are some key points from Henry's handout for the public hearing:

- At least 30 days before program launch, all electric customers will be mailed notifications including the initial fixed rates for Community Power service compared with Eversource. There will be several electricity rate choices including a basic rate (cheapest) and rates that reflect a higher sourcing of renewable energy.
- Participation in Cheshire Community Power is voluntary. Customers can choose to opt-out and to stay with Eversource for electricity supply, or shop for another market option. Most current Eversource default electricity supply customers will be automatically enrolled unless they choose to opt out.

- Customers already getting their power from a third-party supplier will remain with their supplier unless they choose to opt-in to Community Power. Customers should review the terms of their third-party supply contract if they are considering switching to Community Power.

Susan stated that on August 14 the Select Board is scheduled to consider the question whether to opt-in to Cheshire Community Power. The timing of Board's vote takes into consideration the deadline for participation in the initial launch of Cheshire Community Power.

Blake explained that the public hearing and Select Board vote follow a year-long process of research and education into community power. At Town Meeting in March 2023, there was broad support for a warrant article on the question whether there is community support to consider opting into the Cheshire County Community Power Plan for electricity supply. This hearing and the upcoming Select Board vote are in follow up on the warrant article.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Susan W. Peters