

Renewable Energy Task Force
Minutes for Meeting held on Tuesday, April 16, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Task Force members in attendance were Deb Deleso, Laura Lynch, Robert Wills, Bev Edwards and Vince Mamone. John Kieley and Cathy Joly also attended.

The first order of business was a presentation by Henry Herndon representing the non-profit organization Clean Energy NH. Clean Energy is member based. It works with municipalities, businesses, governments and other groups involved in renewable energy. Clean Energy provides technical assistance to groups in New Hampshire and does not require that they have membership. Membership provides additional resources like periodic and regular updates of ongoing projects, policy and technological progression in renewable energy.

Henry handed out material that provides additional information about Clean Energy NH. They have a very good website that can be accessed for more details. The website is <https://www.cleanenergynh.org/>.

There are two ways to stay connected. One is to become a member which is only \$250 per year. The other is for anyone, whether a member or not, by signing up for updates. Funds for the Renewable Energy Task Force to become a member was already made available in the Town Budget. We voted unanimously to join with Bev moving and Laura seconding.

Henry also answered our questions regarding available sources of funding (not many), relevant New Hampshire laws and what is in the works in Concord. We also discussed issues that might help or hinder installing a municipal scale solar array (several Mwatts) for residents. Clean Energy NH also is an adviser to Peterborough and several other Monadnock area towns.

The draft minutes from the February 19, 2019 had been reviewed and approved at our mini-meeting held on April 3. We revisited them tonight and affirmed their approval.

Robert had arranged for Margaret Dillon to do an infrared scan of the Town Hall building on Wed morning. She will do a full energy audit later in the year but we wanted to get the blower test done during the cooler weather as this gives better data. The cost of the audit will be covered by Eversource.

Bev asked for volunteers to help sort trash that will be picked up on Good Roads Day for recycling.

We discussed our next steps regarding renewable energy for the town facilitates. John Kieley recommended that we work with the Budget Advisory Committee to get planned funding into the calendar. This allows any spending for solar, which could be similar to a new road maintenance equipment purchase, to be planned and timed to be the least disruptive to town finances.

John Kieley also raised concern about putting solar panels on historic buildings or even if ground-mount solar arrays would be appropriate or interfere with aesthetics of the town center.

We also discussed putting the Harvest Festival on our to do list.

Robert moved to adjourn the meeting and Bev seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 PM.

On April 3 at 9:30 AM we held a mini-meeting to hear a presentation from Scott Maslansky of CDFA. The meeting had originally been planned for our March 13 regular meeting but had to be rescheduled due to constraints. Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) is a non-profit located in New Hampshire.

CDFA manages three areas of funding assistance; block grants targeting low income populations, tax credits targeting businesses as part of the business profits tax and the Clean Energy Fund targeting municipalities. The CDFA website is located here <http://www.nhcdfa.org/>

Deb moved to adjourn the meeting and Rob seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15AM.

Submitted by
Vince Mamone