



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Sustainability Committee

### Minutes



Debra Putnam, Chairman Sustainability    Brett Gagnon, Selectmen Liaison

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**July 26, 2021 – 7PM**

Hudson Town Hall - 12 School St., Hudson, NH 03051  
**Community Development (Buxton) Meeting Room**

- 1. Call to Order:** 7 PM
- 2. Attendance:** Debra Putnam, Kate Messner, Sarah Repeta, Brett Gagnon, Jennifer Stone-Grimaldi, Ed Thompson and Craig Putnam
- 3. Public Input:** None
- 4. Presentation by Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire followed by Q&A by members.**

This presentation can be seen on video, available on HCTV. The PowerPoint presentation is available on our town website. The following is a synopsis of the questions and answers provided during the meeting:

**Q:** Are there any competitors to what you do?

**A:** There are a number of models for community power. Some states have a broker model and there are a number of service providers that can provide service. There are many competitors.

**Q:** Do we have to agree on the same plan with the other 13 municipalities who are in the coalition?

**A:** No, you can customize your plan to your town's needs.

**Q:** Are you employed by Hanover and Lebanon. How did it originate?

**A:** I'm an independent contractor and my client is the city of Lebanon and the town of Hanover and they're working in collaboration with the growing coalition, so I have weekly meetings with the staff and officials from those communities along with Nashua and a number of other communities.

**Q:** How did it get started?

**A:** It started with legislation in 2019 and my previous employer worked very closely with that legislation and those towns.

**Q:** Your background, is it in engineering or power?

**A:** I have a bachelors in Political Science from UNH and a masters of Science in Natural Resources. That's a little misleading because that degree was a policy degree.

**Q:** Should Hudson sign up with this, are the retail customers being signed up by default and then they have to opt out?

**A:** That is correct. It's a key point. This would be an opt out program.

**Q:** If individuals want to go greener, they can do that within this?

**A:** That's correct. You would choose a default rate, but you might have a box on the menu that says "check here to pay a premium for 100% renewable energy."

**Q:** Can you give some examples of other towns, what they did and their outcomes?

**A:** In NH, no communities have implemented programs yet. There's still a regulatory process where the state has to develop some rules. In other states, in California, there are perhaps 13 of these coalitions. They're building solar, offshore wind, electrifying public transportation, so those are some examples.

**Q:** So we would be joining a coalition and one part of that goal would be to collectively get a lower rate. But there is some way for us to get money of sorts and then invest in these examples that you've provided. Where does that money come from?

**A:** So the coalition model is creating a new corporation, a public non-profit. So you create a corporation controlled by the communities. They hire the vendors and buy cheap wholesale power. There's a margin where they accrue a reserve fund.

**Q:** So we could say that we want to be part of the coalition in a month or so and that doesn't really mean we're doing much. We can prepare and see what our options are. Then once we plan something, then we'd go to town warrant to present to the voters. And then we'd be part of the billing and paying.

**A:** That's exactly right.

**Q:** And what exactly do you need for us to join your coalition?

**A:** It is the select board voting to adopt our joint powers agreement and authorize your CEO or town administrator to sign the joint powers agreement. That's phase one.

**Q:** You were talking about 13 communities, and I see a number of 21 members here. Can you explain the difference?

**A:** The bylaws provide that we may have up to 21 board seats. Once there's 22 members, the annual meeting of the members will elect the 11 to 21. The 13 is just the goal that the organizing group established recently.

**Q:** Would this board have to provide marketing funds or would you help us with marketing?

**A:** Right now, you would have access to all of the materials that the other communities have developed. Post incorporation, then we'll have the marketing capacity of the vendors as well.

**Q:** Is all of this dependent on the governor signing the legislation?

**A:** Yes, but the rumor is that the governor is going to sign it. He has made every indication that he is positive about this bill and even without the bill, community power is doable.

**Q:** Do you have any estimate of what the member services costs would be?

**A:** I do not. The other gentleman working on this, his role is develop the business plan and the cash analyses. And actually, there's a meeting scheduled for August 5<sup>th</sup>, next week and the existing members and some of the potential members will be having some level of discussion about that.

**Q:** Is the board able to contract its duties out to others that are not part of the organization? Am I reading that correctly?

**A:** I've never gotten that question. It does seem to read that way. I can't imagine a scenario where this would occur.

**Q:** So, for example, could we join with Nashua or another community or more and act as one in terms of the relationship with CPCNH.

**A:** That is correct. Pelham, Windham and Hudson could form a regional committee and that regional committee could develop a plan and then they could form a regional community power aggregation. So, it would be one program for the three towns.

**Q:** If were to go forward with the first and second steps, is there a minimum amount of time that we need to sign a contract for?

**A:** I don't have a hard a fast answer for that, but there would be a contract.

**Q:** Eversource would still be maintaining the lines? Nothing changes in that regard?

**A:** That is correct. And most customers will get a bill from Eversource that says "Line item: Hudson Community Power." Then in the future, there may be instances with a dual bill.

5. **Approval of Minutes:** June 28, 2021 Minutes submitted by J. Stone-Grimaldi  
Kate Messner motions to accept the minutes from the June meeting. Sarah Repeta seconds the motion. All members are unanimously in favor.

## 6. Reports:

- **Trash-Recycling Tonnage Report:** Debbie Putnam reports are tonnage rates are about normal, however we'd like to see improvement.
- **Expenditure Report:** New fiscal year started July 1, 2021. Debbie Putnam reports we have started with \$1300. Last year, we spent only 17% of our budget.
- **Energy Conservation Report:** updates by D. Putnam  
LED Lights project at the DPW – project is about 1/3 completed. Once completed and Rebate is processed, funds will be coming back into the Energy Efficiency Capital Reserve Fund.  
NRPC – EV School buses – First Student – Committee will receive invitations to attend upcoming meetings. Multiple entities already engaged in discussions.  
NHSaves – Button Up NH – September 29 – Zoom – confirmed
- **Residential Recycling and Solid Waste Services Guide, and the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle list** available via clickable links on Sustainability Committee home page on the Hudson Town website.
- **Hudson Transfer Station: The next two upcoming dates it will be open are July 31 and August 14 (8:00am-12:00pm) 2021 Transfer Station Pass Needed** - 3 free per year per household, one pass needed for each drop off. Passes may be picked up only at the DPW offices Monday through Thursday 6am – 4pm, 2 Constitution Drive, Hudson. **The Transfer Station will be open each Saturday for yard waste, metal and cardboard drop-offs 8am-12noon through November.**
- **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day- Public Service Announcement:**  
**When--**Saturday August 7, 8:00AM-12:00PM  
**Where—**Nashua City Park & Ride, 25 Crown Street, Nashua  
**Cost--**\$15 user fee per vehicle, additional charges for quantities exceeding 10 gallons or 20 pounds  
**No Latex Paint, No Electronics, No Medications**  
**For more information and a complete list of accepted items, please visit:**  
**<http://www.nashuarpc.org/hhw> or call 603-417-6570**

7. **Committee Home Page:** Member list has been updated to reflect the current 5 members and one alternate.

8. **Old Home Days –** Joint exhibit with Conservation Commission

**\*Free Raffle – Gift Baskets Drawing on Sunday at 3pm – LED Light Bulbs-6, LED Desk Lamp, Evolve Showerhead Adapter ( need colorful baskets, jars to put raffle tickets into(1 jar per gift basket) and an Ad created )**

**\*Plant a seedling to take home! – Fun Activity for Children Sunday 1-3pm (Draft of Ad in the Packet)**

**\*Hours – Advise which time slots you will be available to help man the combined exhibit.**

Thursday August 12th 5 to 10 p.m. (3:30 pm Set up of Exhibit)

Friday August 13th 5 to 11 p.m.

Saturday August 14th 12 to 11 p.m.

Sunday August 15th 12 to 5 p.m. (5:00pm Teardown of Exhibit)

**\*Conservation Commission is the foundation exhibitor** – invited the Sustainability Committee to participate. Sustainability Committee has offered use of two 10X10 Popup Tents and an A-Frame sign. We will give away the backpacks to people who sign up to volunteer for roadside cleanups.

**\*Committee votes on expenditure of funds** – confirming small expenses to date, deciding whether to authorize a new Sign(s) for one of the A-Frames (to be used at Old Home Day events in future), Gift Basket decorations, Jars for Raffle tickets, Tickets (two part).

Jennifer Stone-Grimaldi makes a motion to expend no more than \$75 on printing and \$30 on office supplies for Old Home Days. Ed Thompson seconds the motion. The motion is unanimously approved.

Brett Gagnon mentions that we should display an example of the LED lights that are replacing the old street lights. Ed Thompson volunteers to create an FAQ about the street light project for our display.

9. **Standard Power/Good Energy** to present at the next meeting which will be on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.
10. **“Bags for Benches”** –Hudson Lions Club still accepting all clean bags Except for Frozen Food bags. The project will result in a “park” bench being donated.
11. **Election of Officers:** Proposed for the August meeting or September meeting at the latest. Debbie Putnam will email the position descriptions to the members for review before the next meeting.
12. **Committee Member & Selectman Liaison Comments:**

Sarah Repeta says that she went to the Hudson Residents facebook page to see if there are some roads that residents feel need a cleanup. She drove each suggested road to verify which ones do need to be cleaned. She made a list of roads that she does not believe would need police presence and another list of roads that would probably need police presence. She would like to know how often the committee believes we could do roadside cleanups. She suggests a schedule of cleaning every other week.

Debbie Putnam says that we have always first gone through Jess Forrence, then the chief of police, then the board of selectman, even if police presence is not needed. Recently, however, she has heard of a young man who implemented a roadside cleanup on his own. She expressed concern about whether the board of selectman would be comfortable allowing a resident driven roadside cleanup that’s supported by the DPW so that we, the committee, do not have to present to the BOS for approval on every single road and date.

Brett Gagnon suggests that we could rate roads for safety, which would help us decide what roads would be appropriate for resident driven cleanups versus a cleanup that requires town resources such as police and DPW. He suggests Sarah could make this into a business proposal and see if she could get permission to classify some roads that could be cleaned up without further intervention from the town.

Debbie Putnam says that Jess Forrence would potentially be able to advise Sarah on road classification. She also mentions that the deployment of the signs and the picking up of the bags would all have to be coordinated with the DPW.

Sarah Repeta asks for the input of the committee regarding time frames and roads so that she can incorporate that into her proposal. Ed Thompson and Craig Putnam suggest that springtime is the best time because you need a lack of snow as well as a lack of foliage. Jennifer Stone-Grimaldi suggests trying to encourage individual neighborhoods to participate on the same day as the spring and fall cleanups that are done by the committee. She says that with the right kind of marketing, potentially we could encourage neighborhoods to take before and after pics and compete for the most improved or possibly have residents guess how many pounds of trash were picked up. There are a lot of things that could be done to encourage enthusiasm, even from residents who have not necessarily participated in the cleanup themselves. Ed Thompson suggests that any individual in town could pick up a block or two by themselves with a grabber.

Jennifer Stone-Grimaldi is excited to see all the new faces. She says we had a really productive meeting and she's excited for what we're going to accomplish this year. Debbie Putnam agrees.

**13. Selection of Next Meeting Date: August 23, 2021**

Ed Thompson makes a motion to adjourn. Kate Messner seconds. Motion is accepted unanimously.

**14. Adjourned: 9:27 pm**

*Jennifer Stone-Grimaldi*  
*Hudson Sustainability Committee, Secretary*

08/20/21