



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Sustainability Committee

### Minutes



Debra Putnam, Chairman Sustainability    Brett Gagnon, Selectmen Liaison

---

Town Hall, 12 School, Hudson, New Hampshire 03051    • Tel: 603-886-6018    • Fax: 603-594-1143

---

**August 23, 2021 – 7PM**

Hudson Town Hall - 12 School St., Hudson, NH 03051

**Community Development (Buxton) Meeting Room**

- 1. Call to Order:**
- 2. Attendance:** Debra Putnam, Kate Messner, Sarah Repeta, Jennifer Stone-Grimaldi, Ed Thompson and Craig Putnam
- 3. Public Input:** None
- 4. Presentation by Standard Power/Good Energy 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:** How do you survey the community, what's your process and how many people do you survey?

**A:** As many as we can. Local shopper, Nashua paper with article and survey, social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, etc), Zooms for groups (Lions Club, Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, VFW, etc) Spectrum magazine, Patch website, Union Leader (electronic version),

**Q: In regards to launch of program from presentation Getting Started slide:** Do you mean going to Eversource and finding out the usage rates of the residential areas of Hudson.

**A:** Yes

**Q:** When you talk about the community power committee (from the presentation), what kind of requirements, how many members and time commitments are needed?

**A:** Keene had 6 committee members and 10 planned meetings with ad hoc meetings before big presentations.

**Q:** With your competitors do you have overlap with your energy suppliers? Do you both compete for them or do you have specific contracts with the energy suppliers that you use?

**A:** I know who we use but I don't know who our competitors use. I know in regular business absolutely, freedom exists. The Community Power Coalition I don't know what they will do, I don't believe they have contracts with anybody. Freedom and us (Standard Power/Good Energy) have contracts with all the same people.

**Q:** You are competing in your method?

**A:** Based on the law and rules there is only so much variance. What we offer is a very full service from day one and the experience of success, that's why we joined Good Energy, no one else has experience doing this. We wanted to have that experience as part of the program so we partnered with Good Energy so we could do this throughout NH.

**Q:** When we set up an option for the residents, do they only have one option or can they choose their level of green energy?

**A:** Yes. Some people will say I want the lowest price I can get, and there will be people who will be ok with paying more to get 100% local green energy, and then there may be 2 choices in between. What we try to achieve is the lowest rate being the same as their current rate but have 10-15% green energy.

**Q:** How does your revenue stream work? Are you paid by Eversource?

**A:** No, we are paid by 3<sup>rd</sup> party suppliers, the group net metering program and we have some consulting contracts (Pennichuck Waterworks). Hudson would not pay us

**Q:** Would the Town of Hudson pay Standard Power/Good Energy a standard fee?

**A:** No, Standard Power/Good Energy is paid by the energy supplier. There is no transaction or cost for the town.

**Q:** Is there an opportunity for the town or residents to sell back to the grid?

**A:** That's in the future but not available yet.

**Q:** What is the timeframe on a contract for energy?

**A:** Utilities price every 6 months during a window a few weeks long. In a community power plan we look at pricing for 1, 2, 3 years. Normally when we do the municipality it is for 3 years.

**Q:** When the rates change at the end of the contract do you send something out to all the residents?

**A:** Yes

**Q:** Is it possible for Hudson to link arms with other communities to form a regional area?

**A:** It is probable and what we expect and would be dependent on which communities are ready at the same time.

**Q:** It struck me that its highly likely that the PUC will be reorganized because of the changes due to HB 315 and related department of energy.

**A:** Yes they are reorganizing at the PUC but a lot of the detail of 315 that was worked on in the Senate work session will carry through to the rule making, we did a lot of the work already (we think) but we will see at anytime another entity could get fussy again and make it a difficult rule making session.

**Q:** Is time of day pricing, is that a possibility? What things would have to happen?

**A:** It could be a result of grid mod, which is an existing docket and would be the fastest way to get it in, but it could also be made possible through a law or bill that doesn't exist yet.

**Q:** Just to be clear this is not something that Standard Power could offer, it has to be enabled by legislative change at the state level?

**A:** Or rule change, yes.

**Q:** Suppose Hudson had a site that may be appropriate for a solar array, how would the town engage with you to fund, set up and manage that project?

**A:** In general, you are about to become our client on the municipal level by virtue of the Nashua Regional Planning Commission. We act as a consultant for any of our communities, you are our community (because we are already working with them) and we will help with development with that project, now today with no contract since we are already working with you.

5. **Approval of Minutes:** July 26, 2021 Minutes - J. Stone-Grimaldi (to be released by Mon. 8/23)

Sarah Repeta motions to accept the minutes from the July meeting. Kate Messner seconds the motion. All members are unanimously in favor.

## 6. Reports:

- **Trash-Recycling Tonnage Report:** Debbie Putnam reports are tonnage rates of 23.44% are about normal, however we'd like to see improvement after discussions held at the Hudson Old Home Days with residents.
- **Expenditure Report:** July Expenditure Report: New fiscal year started July 1, 2021. Expenditures related to Old Home Days exhibit \$22.94. Further expenses will be reported in September. D. Putnam
- **Energy Conservation Report:**
  - LED Lights project at the DPW – project is about 52% complete. – Initial cost \$284,000, - \$101,000 grant from Eversource, making the cost \$183,000. Once completed there will be a savings of \$84,000/yr, return on investment is less than 3 years. D. Putnam savings of \$84K/yr.- Q&A sheet and old/new lights on display at Hudson Old Home Days
  - NRPC – EV School buses – First Student – Cost differential approx. \$100,000 per bus. Grants available. Committee will receive invitations to attend upcoming meetings. Multiple entities already engaged in discussions. C. Putnam
  - NHSaves – Button Up NH – September 29 – Zoom – Zoom address will be posted on Facebook, presentation approx. 90 minutes- A-Frame sign of flyer displayed at Old Home Days plus ¼ page flyers handed out. -D. Putnam, seeking member input -where to display A-Frame sign starting early September, where to put out ¼ flyers?
- **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 August 14 & 28 (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.****

7. **Old Home Days** –Exhibit with Conservation Commission – D. Putnam with input from Sarah and Kate  
Free Raffle approx. 125 entries– Gift Baskets Drawing–  
LED Light Bulbs-6- winner  
LED Desk Lamp- winner  
Evolve Showerhead Adapter- winner  
Plant a seedling to take home- plants provided by Smith Farm in Hudson  
A-Frame Sign, Table signs, handouts  
Sarah Repeta- after seeing other exhibits, suggestion to bundle informational together to make it easier to hand out- partnering with Conservation committee was excellent  
Kate Messner- Recycle Right Information was a great piece of information to be displayed

8. **Freedom Energy Logistics** to present at the next meeting. **Date for next meeting needs to be voted on. Craig and Debbie unable to attend on normal date of Sept 27. Town Administration has advised meeting could be held Sept 30<sup>th</sup>.**  
Ed Thompson motions to accept new September meeting date of September 30<sup>th</sup>. Sarah Repeta seconds the motion. All members are unanimously in favor.

9. **Future Warrant Articles** – Please see three documents included in Packet regarding possible future Warrant Articles - C. Putnam

**These are ideas only for Warrant Articles**

- **Warrant Article 1-** Town of Hudson to vote to authorize the Selectboard to sign into a community power agreement and to see if Town of Hudson will vote to adopt the Hudson Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan
- **Warrant Article 2-** Get the town to put a stake in the ground to support EV charging
  - i. Maybe to go through the Planning Board
  - ii. Town to change policies for new apartment/condo units coming into town to have EV charging stations
  - iii. Also bringing in EV stations to schools, large parking areas, businesses
- **Warrant Article 3-** Setting a Renewable Energy goal for the town of Hudson- see article attachment for additional information
- **Question-** Is a Warrant Article needed for Selectboard to engage with one of the power aggregation companies? May only need Warrant Article once we want to sign on with one of the Power Aggregation organizations.

10. **Local Energy Solutions Conference** – October 8 – Grappone Center in Concord, NH Is there a Committee member available to attend? If so, Committee to vote to pay the registration fee.

11. **Election of Officers:** Voting to take place for

- Chairman- Debbie Putnam puts her name forward to continue on as Chair- seconded by Jennifer Stone-Grimaldi. All members are unanimously in favor.
- Vice-Chair- Jennifer Stone-Grimaldi – Nominated by Debbie Putnam, seconded by Sarah Repeta. All members are unanimously in favor.
- Secretary- Sarah Repeta puts her name forward, seconded by Kate Messner. All members are unanimously in favor.

12. **Committee Member & Selectman Liaison Comments:** None.

13. **Selection of Next Meeting Date:** September 30, 2021

- Ed Thompson makes a motion to adjourn. Sarah Repeta seconds. Motion is accepted unanimously.

14. **Adjourned:** 9:09 pm

*Sarah Repeta*

*Hudson Sustainability Committee, Secretary*

09/29/21