



TOWN OF HUDSON

Sustainability Committee

PUBLIC HEARING



Debra Putnam, Chair Sustainability Brett Gagnon, Selectmen Liaison

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

November 15, 2022– 7PM

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

Community Development (Buxton) Meeting Room

- 1. Call to Order: 7:00pm**
- 2. Present:** Craig Putnam, Henry Herndon, Brett Gagnon, Kate Messner, Paul Inderbitzen, Ed Thompson, and Debra Putnam with fourteen residents in attendance.
- 3. Introduction and Pledge of Allegiance – Debra Putnam, Chair**

The Hudson Electric Aggregation Committee is a subcommittee of the Sustainability Committee. This Public Hearing is the first of at least two to be held in compliance with RSA 53-E as set by the New Hampshire State Legislature.

This Hearing will be hosted by Mr. Craig Putnam, Director of the Hudson Electric Aggregation Committee and Mr. Henry Herndon of the Community Power Coalition of NH.

The Question and Answer session that follows the presentation will be managed by the Hudson Town Moderator - Mr. Paul Inderbitzen.

- 4. Presentation by Mr. Craig Putnam, HEAC and Mr. Henry Herndon, CPCNH**

AGENDA

1. What is Community Power?
2. Your Electric Bill: Supply & Delivery Charges
3. The Electric Aggregation Plan
4. “Opt-out” vs. “Opt-in”
5. Possible Warrant Articles
6. Questions & Discussion

Mr. Brett Gagnon added to the presentation by asking questions. The questions were answered by Craig Putnam and/or Henry Herndon and were effective in helping residents understand certain points and technical jargon.

The complete PowerPoint presentation is available to all residents through the Hudson Town Website:

https://www.hudsonnh.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/sustainability_committee/page/52888/hudson_eap_public_hearing_presentation_11_15_22_final.pdf

5. Questions & Answers: At this point in the evening Moderator, Mr. Paul Inderbitzen invited the residents present (14) to ask questions and comment on the information presented.

Five residents came forward with questions and comments.

- 1. Mr. James Crowley of 4 Fairway Drive:** First noted that the presentation answered a lot of questions he had. Mr. Crowley asked for an explanation as to the threshold of participation needed to be “successful.” Mr. Herndon explained that an OptOut approach is the most successful for a variety of reasons. Mr. Crowley asked valid questions about the procurement of electricity – the frequency of buying with Eversource only buying twice a year. Mr. Crowley expressed support of the purchasing of power more frequently with the leveraging of a large buying base and the green power options available to customers through an entity such as CPCNH.
- 2. Mr. John Drabinowicz of 8 Deerfield Dr.:** Mr. Drabinowicz first asked about what obligations there would be for the Town of Hudson. He went on to seek clarification regarding costs to the Town. It was explained that the costs would be “incidental” – not affecting the tax burden on the residents. An example was given of a brief consultation with the Town Lawyer. Mr. Drabinowicz then explained his support for going forward only with the OpOut Warrant Article. He made important points about getting the BOS and residents behind this initiative as “I can not afford the current rates!”
- 3. Ms. Heidi Jakoby of 94 Gowing Rd.:** Ms. Jacoby noted that she had watched the Workshop with the BOS and that is why she chose to attend the Public Hearing. She immediately focused in on the OptOut Warrant Article praising its wording: “I commend this explanation.” Ms. Jacoby noted that the “OptOut” format is quite common throughout companies, etc. This is what she has experienced. She noted that like those who spoke before her “I cannot afford my electricity anymore either.” “I elected them (BOS) to do what is best for the community.” She noted that the BOS should support the Warrant Article such that it is presented to voters in March so that residents can make the decision as to whether to go forward with Community Power Aggregation.
- 4. Mr. Tim Wyatt of 139 Barretts Hill Rd.:** Mr. Wyatt noted that he was in agreement with the previous residents who spoke. Mr. Wyatt inquired about who pays for printing of bills, etc. – How is that handled? Mr. Herndon explained that should the Town chose to go with CPCNH – CPCNH would pay for the mailings to Eversource customers communicating about the switchover to Hudson Community Power. The residents would still receive their electric bill from Eversource with the wording of one line changing to reflect the new electricity supplier. Mr. Wyatt then asked where would the electricity be purchased from? Mr. Herndon explained about ISO New England – involving 6 New England states. Mr. Herndon gave a brief, simple explanation about the purchasing of power from a large variety of suppliers. Mr. Wyatt then inquired as to whether switching to Community Power Aggregation would affect those residents who have solar arrays. (Mr. Wyatt has a Solar array on his roof). Mr. Herndon explained the current status and the possible additional positive aspects of encouraging even more residents to have a solar array installed on their home/property. Mr. Wyatt then initiated a discussion about the options for partnering in regards to the purchasing of power and the demands on the time of the BOS. Mr. Putnam, Mr. Herndon and Mr. Gagnon all contributed to the sharing of information to address Mr. Wyatt’s valid questions. Mr. Gagnon, Selectman, advised that the workload would mostly be carried by the Hudson Electric Aggregation Committee and then, if the Warrant Article is passed, Hudson Community Power. Mr. Wyatt expressed concern about neighbors being able to pay their bills.

It came out in discussion that the HEAC will be in a Get Tech Smart segment hosted by Flo Nicolas on December 5th at the HCTV studio.

5. **Mr. David Howe of 7 Mission Lane:** Mr. Howe first asked about the time frame that it took for the electricity rate to be increased. Mr. Herndon explained and Mr. Howe noted that “it sounds like it is a really good time to take control (of the electricity rates).” Mr. Howe brought up the fact that the Town and the School System both buy power through separate Aggregation programs. Mrs. Putnam and Mr. Gagnon explained how being participants in Power Aggregation programs have saved the Town and the School System significant funds each year. The Town of Hudson has been involved in such a program for over 10 years. Mrs. Putnam noted that the reason the Sustainability Committee has been focused on Community Power Aggregation is to help all residents save money. Mr. Howe noted that he appreciates Town officials and committees working on saving residents money. He hopes that the Warrant Article that goes in front of the voters is short but understandable to help residents realize the important opportunity.

Closing Statements and Comments:

Mrs. Putnam thanked all who attended the Public Hearing and those residents who will watch the Hearing in the weeks and months to come. She noted that the second Public Hearing is scheduled for January 17 with a snow date of January 19th. Mr. Gagnon thanked all Committee members and Mr. Herndon for their extensive work in bringing Community Power Aggregation before the residents of Hudson. Mr. Gagnon thanked Mr. Herndon for his participation in and contributions to a number of meetings despite the fact that the Town of Hudson has no contract with CPCNH. Mr. Putnam noted a special thanks to all residents who attended the Public Hearing.

Adjourned: Town Moderator, Mr. Inderbitzen closed the hearing at 8:24pm.

Debra Putnam

Hudson Sustainability Committee, Chair

November 18, 2022