



TOWN OF HUDSON

Sustainability Committee

Minutes



Edward Thompson - Secretary

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March 27, 2023– 7PM

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

Community Development (Buxton) Meeting Room

- 1. Meeting called to Order at 7pm.**
- 2. Attendance:** Present were Chairman Debra Putnam, Craig Putnam, Jennifer Stone-Grimaldi, Kate Messner and Ed Thompson. No Selectman Laison present.
- 3. Public Input:** There was no one present from the public.
- 4. Presentation by Stuart Ormsbee of Colonial Power Group, Inc. and Bart Fromuth, President of Freedom Energy Logistics.** (Were introduced by Craig Putnam). Both companies have joined forces. This was a follow-up visit from 2 yrs. ago. Mr. Ormsbee gave a PowerPoint presentation describing the workings of the two companies and how Colonial would provide Aggregate Energy to consumers in Hudson. Colonial Power Group is an energy consulting company located in Marlborough, MA who specializes in Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) in New England. Currently, they have nearly 600,000 consumers in over 80 communities. Freedom Energy, a much smaller company, are now working with Colonial offering contracts.

A set of questions (See **Addendum A**) were submitted prior to this meeting and were answered accordingly. These questions are being given to each of the possible Community Power Partners. Many of the questions at this meeting were presented by C. Putnam. It should be noted that Colonial does include customer service staffing. Chairman D. Putnam stressed that Hudson will not have staffing to field questions, so it was good to hear this information.

The full presentation is available on the Sustainability Committee website at:

[https://www.hudsonnh.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/sustainability_committee/page/53210/hudson_nh_hcp - cpg-freedom 3 27 23 reduced.pdf](https://www.hudsonnh.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/sustainability_committee/page/53210/hudson_nh_hcp_-_cpg-freedom_3_27_23_reduced.pdf)

- 5. HEAC Report:** Craig Putnam and Kate Messner updated members on all matters connected with the Hudson Electric Aggregation Committee. CPCNH has current town/county member count is at 30, with 2 pending. The focus of CPCNH is currently supporting the communities that are looking to join (10). Example Nashua.

A copy of the letter that was sent out by Nashua can be found on the Sustainability Committee website at:

[https://www.hudsonnh.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/sustainability_committee/page/53189/nashua_customernotice_eversource q2-2023.pdf](https://www.hudsonnh.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/sustainability_committee/page/53189/nashua_customernotice_eversource_q2-2023.pdf)

This spring 6+ more communities are also launching CPA's in NH that are using brokers and not part of CPCNH.

6. **Town Voting on March 28!** Reminder was given by Chairman Putnam and where to vote. Ward 1 at the Community Center. Ward 2 at Alvirne High school. Yard Signs purchased with private funds promoting Article 20 were reset after the recent snowstorm.
7. **Approval of Minutes:** February 27, 2023, Minutes – submitted by Ed Thompson (included in the packet). Motion to approve by K. Messner, 2nd by C. Putnam. Motion passed 5-0.
8. **Reports:**
 - **Trash-Recycling Tonnage Report:** (included in the Packet) Feb. was at 22.7% Note the significant drop in tonnage of both Trash and Recyclables.
 - **Expenditure Report:** (included in the Packet) Balance is \$76.82 due to the cost to publish the two notices for the two Public Hearings: \$209.37 + \$231.35 = \$440.72
9. **Hudson Transfer Station: Starting in April the Transfer Station will be open two Saturdays each month: April 8 and 29 - 8:00am-12:00noon – 2023 passes will be needed.** The Transfer Station will again be open for yard waste, metal & cardboard drop-offs 8am-12noon on Saturdays starting April 8, 2023 – No Pass required.
DPW offices winter hours are **8am-4pm Monday-Friday** 2 Constitution Drive, Hudson.
10. **Hazardous Waste Collections:** The schedule is resuming for 2023. The first two dates are **Saturday, April 22, 2023, 8:00AM-12:00PM** and **Thursday, June 1, 2023, 3:00PM-7:00PM**, Both at 25 Crown Street, Nashua Cost--\$15 user fee per vehicle (cash or check), additional charges for quantities exceeding 10 gallons or 20 pounds. Carpooling encouraged!
For more information and a complete list of accepted items, please visit:
www.nashuarpc.org/energy_environment/household_hazardous_waste_collections/index.php
11. **Button Up NH Workshop – (Review Flyer and Press Release included in Packet)**
The date is April 11 at the Rodgers Memorial Library in the Community Room.
One A Frame sign will be set at the exit of each of the Voting locations on March 28 – the day after this meeting. Two 11X17 enlargements of the flyer were printed for posting on the top portion of one side of each A-Frame sign.

One-page flyers will be put up around town, Town Hall, Senior Center and postings made to Hudson related Facebook pages. The Button Up NH Workshop shows up in the Rodgers Memorial Library Calendar of events. These workshops offer homeowners, apartment owners and business owners' information on easy projects to reduce their energy bills both in the winter and in the summer.

At the January meeting, Ed and Kate offered to set up and manage the Workshop. One update: the doors will open at 6:30pm for the Workshop which is scheduled to start at 7:00pm. The flyer notes "light refreshments." If anyone has questions, they can contact hudsonsustainability@gmail.com. The committee needs to reset the room by 9pm when the library closes.

12. Master Plan – Vision chapter paragraph – A Sustainability Committee Mission Statement was included in packet for editing by members to be appropriate for inclusion in the Master Plan. This was a follow up to the latest Planning Board meeting addressing the Master Plan which K. Messner, D. Putnam and E. Thompson attended. Chairman Putnam noted her concern over the future water needs in town and felt it needed to be added to pertinent sections of the Master Plan. C. Putnam noted that the future sewer needs had been addressed.

The request was made by Chairman Putnam for edits to the sections pertaining to sustainability needs and requirements (Visioning Goals) by Wed., April 29th.

Motion was made by E. Thompson for Chairman Putnam to work with K. Messner by email to finalize statement after receipt of individual emails from members with suggested edits. Seconded by J. Stone-Grimaldi. Motion passed 5-0.

13. The next meeting – April 24, 2023. Presuming passage of Article 20 - We will be inviting two additional groups back for follow-up for due diligence research. April: Standard Power, May: CPCNH.

14. Committee Member & Selectman Liaison Comments: K. Messner stated voting polls open at 7am, close at 8pm. Chairman Putnam encouraged folks to vote for the General Fund Operating Budget.

15. Adjournment: Motion by E. Thompson, seconded by K. Messner. The meeting adjourned at 8:59pm.

Edward Thompson
Hudson Sustainability Committee, Secretary

April 19th, 2023

Addendum A:

Questions for Candidate Partner Organizations

These questions are being asked of each of the candidate Hudson Community Power (HCP) partner organizations – those entities that HCP would be using for power procurement, call center management, and related services.

Please address these questions as best you can in your presentation to the Hudson Sustainability Committee. Obviously, you should feel free to also present any other information you feel the committee should have. We see this first meeting as the beginning of a process that will eventually result with the committee making a recommendation to the Hudson Board of Selectmen (BOS) as to which organization HCP should partner with (assuming the BOS in fact decides to stand up HCP).

Company Overview

- History
- Size, # of municipalities served, etc.
- # of end-user customers served
- ...

Overall Business Process Steps

- Outline the overall process of signing up to do business with your company:
 - Initial startup
 - Ongoing
 - Expected timeline

Contracts

- Examples of required documents, such as:
 - Policies
 - Contracts, contract duration
 - ...

Town Exposure

- To what extent would the Town of Hudson be exposed to any financial liabilities if HCP chose to partner with your company? For example, suppose there were a sudden:
 - Drop in customer count due to <whatever>?
 - Change in the cost of energy contracts?
 - Change in the 'rules of the game'? For example, suppose NH were to drop out of ISO-NE (HB443)?
 - ...

Required Town Resources

- Describe the town-supplied resources required to do business with your company:
 - Initially / during startup
 - Long-term

Local Control

- How much control does the town have regarding setting the rates?
- How much control does the town have regarding future projects (solar and/or battery installations, TOU metering, etc.)?
- How / to what extent would the town government and/or the town’s Electric Aggregation Committee (per RSA 53-E) be interacting with your company?

Initial Customer Enrollment

- Describe the initial customer enrollment process your company would use.
- What resources would your company provide?
- What would HCP need to provide?

Rate Setting

- What is the rate setting process?
- How often would rates be adjusted?
- How many different rates are possible? For example, HCP would like to see something along the lines of the following. [Note that HCP might also choose to have ‘Granite Plus’ be the default enrollment choice and ‘Granite Basic’ be an opt-down option.]

	Granite Basic (automatic enrollment)	Optional Products		
		Granite Plus (opt-up +)	Clean 50% (opt-up +)	Clean 100% (opt-up +)
Attributes	Meets Renewable Portfolio Standard† (23.4% for 2023)	~33% Renewable Or Carbon Free	~50% Renewable Or Carbon Free	~100% Renewable Or Carbon Free
Price Goal‡	<u>Must be</u> below default utility rate at launch	Below default utility rate	Competitive with default utility rate	Possibly exceeds default utility rate

† The Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is a New Hampshire state policy setting a minimum requirement for renewable energy to be provided to customers.

‡ The goal is always to have the lowest possible price for the given amount of renewable energy. The price descriptions are possible outcomes; actual prices will be determined and published 30 days in advance of any rate change.

Net Metering

- Can net metering customers be accommodated? If so, how? When?
 - NEM 1
 - NEM 2

Call Center Services

- The town expects our partner to provide call center and related services. How would that work and be managed by your company?
- What types of customer contact are supported (phone, web, ...)?
- Describe the capacity & capabilities of the call center, the CSRs, etc.

Projects

- Are town-specific projects (such as solar, battery storage, TOU metering, etc.) possible? If so, how would they be:
 - Funded?
 - Managed?

IT Requirements

- Describe the type and extent of IT integration that would be required for the town to do business with your company.

CPCNH Involvement

- What effect, if any, would there be if Hudson were to continue to be a member of CPCNH while partnering with your company?