



TOWN OF HUDSON

Sustainability Committee

Minutes



Debra Putnam - Chairman

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

April 24, 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, Kate Messner and Ed Thompson. No Selectman Liaison present. One new member of the Hudson Electric Aggregation Committee present: Alex Woodyard. Craig noted there is an additional new member of the HEAC – Karl Huber.
- 3. Public Input:** There was no one present from the public.
- 4. Presentation by Standard Power of America – Ryan Polson and Bob Hayden** (Were introduced by Craig Putnam). This was a follow-up visit from 2 yrs. ago. Mr. Hayden gave a PowerPoint presentation describing the workings of the company and how Standard Power of America would provide Aggregate Energy to consumers in Hudson. Standard Power is an energy consulting company located in Nashua, NH. Currently, they serve 70 communities. Standard Power works with/through the Nashua Regional Planning Commission on the Power Aggregation contract that covers the Town owned Buildings (as separate from the School System). Standard Power Inc. administers a large net metering program that is based on Hydro and Solar power sources. They work in conjunction with Good Energy. They initially worked with school systems and town entities. The shift to Community Power required significant adjustments. Standard Power offers the option of a Community Power Fund that is specific to one town. That town has control over the use of those funds to pay for energy generation and/or efficiency programs. The fund is not “shared” with any other towns. Bob explained the cost associated with basic rate adder to provide electricity (to cover their operational expenses) vs. a rate that includes the creation of the Fund. Bob repeatedly brought up group net metering. The net metering related services offered need to be further assessed by the HEAC. Bob noted that three to five days prior to the Town of Hudson, through the Town Administrator, signed a contract they would meet with representatives of the Town to present the actual electricity rates that would apply at the time of signing. Bob noted that the existence of a Fund might result in some workload for the Town. Chairman D. Putnam stressed that Hudson will not have staffing to field questions. Their customer notification program involves mailing out a card that alerts the residential and small business customer to be on alert for an important letter explaining the options and the transition. They have an 877 phone number and extensive web site. Standard Power goes with fixed contracts at fixed rates. In the case of Community Power Aggregation, rates are set two months prior to the submission of the contract to the town. But the Town does need to promptly sign the contract once released to the Town.

Bob noted at least twice that Standard Power initiates a Survey of all new customers in a town to gauge their interest in opting for a higher percentage of Renewable Energy even with the additional cost per KWH. The HEAC members will review Standard Power's normal survey process as such a polling of residents was essentially already done through the Warrant Article on the March 2023 ballot.

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 with additional key ones contributed by A. Woodyard.

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

<http://www.hudsonctv.com/CablecastPublicSite/show/10838?site=1>

The Power Point slide set can be accessed via:

https://www.hudsonnh.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/sustainability_committee/page/53245/hudson_cp_april_24th_v.1_2023_1.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 33, with over 50 cities and counties having expressed interest or are already in process of joining. The focus of CPCNH is currently supporting the communities that are amongst the Wave 1 Communities. Since the threshold of 21 member communities had been reached a new board was elected. Craig is no longer a Director on CPCNH but is continuing on the "Member Outreach and Engagement Committee." Craig gave the BOS a quick update at their April 11th meeting. April 13 Craig was up at UNH manning a table at an NHPR sponsored By Degrees Conference. On April 18 Craig met with the Town Administrator – Steve Malizia. That was a very productive meeting. That same day Craig attended, virtually, a CPCNH New Member Orientation meeting. That evening he attended a Pelham BOS meeting in support of Brett Gagnon's efforts to bring Community Power Aggregation to Pelham. CPCNH has announced that the new CEO will be coming on board on May 22nd.
6. **Town Voting on March 28** – Multiple members again thanked Hudson voters - Article 20 was passed by over a 4-1 margin!
7. **Approval of Minutes:** March 27, 2023, Minutes – submitted by Ed Thompson (included in the packet). Motion to approve by K. Messner, 2nd by C. Putnam. Motion passed 4-0.
8. **Reports:**
 - **Trash-Recycling Tonnage Report:** (included in the Packet) March was at 23.74%
 - **Expenditure Report:** (included in the Packet) Balance is \$76.82
9. **Hudson Transfer Station: It is now open two Saturdays each month with the next two Saturdays being: April 29 and May 13 - 8:00am-12:00noon** – 2023 passes will be needed. The Transfer Station is now open for yard waste, metal & cardboard drop-offs 8am-12noon on Saturdays – 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 next two dates are Thursday, June, 1, 2023, 3:00PM-7:00PM and Saturday, August 5, 2023, 8:00AM-12:00PM 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. NH SAVES - Button Up NH Workshop – Hosted by Ted Stiles - Energy Auditor/ Energy Efficiency Program Manager** – April 11 at the Rodgers Memorial Library. Twelve residents from Hudson and adjacent towns attended. Great questions were asked and all indicated they had learned much from Mr. Stiles’ factual and interesting presentation. Mr. Stiles has a way of interjecting humor into a presentation that is focused on very important information. Mr. Gordon Tuttle of Eversource was present and fielded many questions with Ted during the Q&A. Free printed materials were available that focus on how homeowners can save on their energy bills. Residents of Hudson can access the recording of the Workshop that has the Power Point Slide set incorporated through the HCTV website – search using April 11 or Button Up NH. This is a great resource available to all NH residents at their convenience.
- 12. Master Plan – Chapter VIII – Community Facilities.** At the request of the BOS, D. Putnam presented text to Brian Groth that reflected concerns of the members of the Sustainability Committee regarding the content of different sections of Chapter VIII of the Master Plan. Please see the attached Addendum #1: COMMUNITY FACILITIES CHAPTER – EDITS & NOTES. I am happy to be able to report that at a subsequent Planning Board Meeting all of the Edits and Notes were officially incorporated into Chapter VIII of the Master Plan. D. Putnam noted that majority of the Sustainability Commission Mission Statement was incorporated into the conclusions section of Chapter VIII. The importance of the Energy Efficiency Capital Reserve Fund is now formally recognized in the Master Plan. The Sustainability Committee should consider submitting a Warrant Article this fall proposing an addition to this Fund on the March 2024 Ballot.
- Another Public Hearing will take place this Wednesday – April 26 should residents wish to share their ideas for improvements to
- Chapter III - Natural Resources Draft 4-26-23
 - Chapter VII Historic Resources Draft 4-26-23
 - Chapter VIII Community Facilities_4-26-23
 - Community Facilities - Merrill Park and Snow Storage
- Each of these documents are available for viewing via the Hudson Town Website.
- 13. The next meeting** –May 22nd – Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire
- 14. Committee Member & Selectman Liaison Comments:** D. Putnam thanked all who came out to vote on March 28th and encouraged more to come out and vote in March 2024! It is the committee’s hope that residents will access the information available about Community Power Aggregation so that we can all come together to bring down the electricity bills in Hudson.
- 15. Adjournment:** Motion by E. Thompson, seconded by K. Messner. The meeting adjourned at 8:42pm.

Debra Putnam

Hudson Sustainability Committee, Chair

May 18, 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?

Notes from Master Plan Public Hearing 3/22/23

COMMUNITY FACILITIES CHAPTER – EDITS & NOTES

General notes: typos have been fixed; information on methodology of population projection included.

TOWN HALL FACILITIES

Existing Conditions, added: There is no elevator access to the lower level although there is a motorized chair lift.

Existing Needs, added: Additional near term needs include improvements related to ADA access and increasing the usage of energy efficient equipment and fixtures. An upgrade of the HVAC system is underway as of Spring 2023.

Future Needs, added: (In relation to equipment upgrades in meeting rooms) Equipment should include enhancements to audio quality to allow presenters or speakers to be properly heard by those in physical attendance.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Existing & Future Needs, added: The station will be retrofitted with LED lights and new windows to increase energy efficiency. Additionally, the new carport will be roof-mount solar ready and EV charging ready.

MERRILL PARK

Deleted reference to picnic tables. Concrete picnic tables were once in the park but destroyed by vandals.

Public hearing comment noted concern with dumping of street snow in Merrill Park. However, this is the desired area by Department of Environmental Services.

SOLID WASTE

Added: The Town is currently pursuing the construction of a recycling and transfer station facility to provide enhanced recycling and handling of municipal solid waste (MSW). The facility will allow for local processing of smaller loads of MSW and mixed recyclables prior to regional transport including expanding capacity for commercial handling of recyclables and MSW. The Town also intends to contract with their current collection company to utilize the facility to accept materials from smaller surrounding communities to further increase regional hauling efficiency. Currently, smaller loads of curbside collection solid waste and recyclables are individually transported regionally to distant processing facilities.

PUBLIC WORKS

Added: In 2021 the Town's street lights were switched to LED bulbs, the cost of which is being funded by the energy savings realized over a 3-year period.

SCHOOL

Corrected some information, updated per 2023 ballot results.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

Added: Town of Hudson currently operating one well in Litchfield, which produces up to 740,000 gallons per day. Hudson meets the water demands by utilizing the well and two crossings over/under and Merrimack River with the capacity of additional 2 million gallons per day. Our average use is somewhere between 1.3 (winter) -2.3 million (summer) gallons per day. Hudson is currently working to secure additional water supplies , such as rehabilitation of the wells, or installing additional crossings.

Added:

Small Storage

As droughts and periods of heavy precipitation can occur unexpectedly, many businesses and homeowners have chosen to use “rain capture” techniques to store water for times when water resources are more scarce. The Town of Hudson should discourage any policy or Act that discourages or prohibits the sustainable storage of rain water for personal use.

SEWER

Added: The sewer infiltration and inflow yearly program (aka I&I) is related to eliminating ground water that gets discharged to the sewer network due to damaged pipes / outdated infrastructure or illegal discharges , such as catch basins and roof tops. We identify and address both of them through our annual trenchless pipe on call services , approximately at \$300,000/ year. This program has reduced the groundwater entering our system and has provided a healthy sewer allocation balance sheet for current and future need of the Town.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

added subsection “Sustainability”

Overall, the town aims to increase energy efficiency, recycling, and proper waste disposal throughout the town. As such, sustainability best practices including the implementation of energy & resource efficient policies, practices, and technologies should be implemented wherever possible to ensure a more sustainable future for the town of Hudson.

With the passage of Article 20 on the 2020 ballot the Town established an Energy Efficiency Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of assessing, designing and implementing energy efficiency projects in Town buildings and facilities. The fund was proposed and championed by former Sustainability Committee Chair Linda Kipnes. The Town should continue to maintain and use this fund to reduce energy costs and consumption.

Added subsection “Water”

The Town should continue to pursue additional water supplies, such as rehabilitation of the wells, or installing additional crossings. The Town of Hudson should discourage any policy or Act that discourages or prohibits the sustainable storage of rain water for personal use.