

TOWN OF BEDFORD
April 23, 2020
ENERGY COMMISSION MINUTES

A meeting of the Bedford Energy Commission was held on Thursday, April 23, 2020 via the Zoom Meeting Platform.

Present: Jeff Kerr (Chair), John Russell (Vice Chair), Denise Ricciardi (Town Council Liaison), Bill Foote (School Board Liaison Alternate), Andrew Gillis, Bing Lu, Tim Paradis, Lori Radke (present for partial meeting), John Schneller (School Board Liaison – present for partial meeting). Former Councilor and Energy Commission member Catherine Rombeau also participated.

Absent: Sarah Braese

This meeting is being conducted virtually without physical location in accordance with Governor Sununu’s Emergency Order #12. Interested members of the public can watch the meeting live on BCTV Comcast Channel 22 or streaming online at www.bedfordnh.org/393/BCTV and by calling into the meeting. Please email rsawyer@bedfordnh.org or call 603-792-1300 to receive the call-in information. Any questions or comments before or during the meeting can be emailed to rsawyer@bedfordnh.org. Please notify staff by email if there are technological issues with the audio transmission during the meeting.

In Mr. Schneller’s absence at the outset of the meeting, Mr. Foote was designated a voting member for this meeting.

- I. Call to Order: Chairman Kerr opened the meeting at 7:00 PM
- II. Quorum Count: (5)
- III. Approval of Minutes –

MOTION by Mr. Gillis to approve the February 19, 2020 minutes. Seconded by Ms. Ricciardi. Vote taken – One abstention (Ms. Ricciardi) All others in favor – Motion Passed.

- IV. Reports of Members and Committees

- a. Legislative update

Ms. Ricciardi provided a legislative update on bills pertaining to energy. It is easy to follow what is going on in the legislature if you follow the bills on the Clean Energy New Hampshire website, and also view the pending State legislation. The New Hampshire Municipal Association website also covers energy bills and pending bills. Many of the pending bills are dependent on whether or not the town can do something with it. For those bills, Ms. Ricciardi will keep her eye on the docket as the meeting dates draw closer and keep everyone apprised. Due to COVID-19 the

legislature is closed, so there is nothing going on currently unless it's behind the scenes. She thinks that since the legislation is made up of a partisan arena, a councilor can add a bit of value because the legislation tends to steer the commission away at times and it can be counterproductive. Chairman Kerr said that would be excellent, and the commission wants to make sure we consider the abilities the town has if the town is given the ability to do something, and if the town has something taken away we want to make sure we don't run afoul of changes to the legislation. Ms. Ricciardi will keep her eye on it and check weekly.

b. School projects

Mr. Foote reported that the schools are being revamped at a steady pace. With the budget passing he thinks that maintenance will have more money to spend on high cash flow things that we are going to expense that would have otherwise shown up on the energy bond from the election before last. Other than that, it will be business as usual facility-wise. With school out, and the kids not in classrooms, maintenance is able to get a lot of things done.

V. Special Orders

a. Beautify Bedford (Earth Day Cleanup)

Chairman Kerr mentioned that the Energy Commission had been talking for quite some time about a planned Earth Day Cleanup. When the stay at home orders were enacted many citizens wanted to do something and pick up trash around the town. Former Energy Commission member Catherine Rombeau was the lead on the commission's Earth Day Cleanup efforts and visited the meeting today to update everyone on the status.

Ms. Rombeau indicated the town cleanup was supposed to coincide with Earth Day (April 22), but even with a pandemic, she was very heartened to see online and on social media how much people still wanted to get involved; so she got the word out that people should plan to go out with their families to pick up trash in their neighborhoods. Chairman Kerr had worked with the Department of Public Works (DPW) to create a map that would allow people to track streets and neighborhoods where they were picking up trash so that efforts would not be duplicated. There was a lot of enthusiasm. Ms. Rombeau reached out to many different social media platforms in town to publicize it. The only concerns she heard were about safety as people strove to social distance and if it was safe to pick up trash. We encouraged everyone to pick up trash with gloves and only doing trash pick-up with their families or alone. The transfer station was open and looking forward to helping them if they had trash to bring. We also had a telephone number available for residents to call for pick-ups. At the end of March, the DPW picked up 70 bags of trash from residents. We did not want to tax staff too much, so we encouraged residents to bring trash to the transfer station as much as they were comfortable, but they could always call if they needed help. A lot of families, and scouts participated. It would be great if we could build on the momentum for next year. Next year, Ms. Rombeau would like to figure out how to get the message out more broadly throughout the town in addition to social media. She likes the idea of it being a several-week effort rolling up to a big celebration rather than just a one-day event because it gives people different opportunities to help. It was also good to make people aware that the Energy Commission was driving this, so residents could also become more aware of the Energy Commission. It was shared on Facebook, and the Energy Commission's Facebook page that signs, vests, bags and grabbers were available for use, and they will continue to be available at the transfer station for anyone who needs them for continued clean-up for the rest of the year.

Mr. Paradis asked if we had utilized the digital sign that leads into the dump to publicize the event weeks in advance. Chairman Kerr said we did not, but next year when we are able to plan it better that would be a great idea. He sees having articles in the newspaper and signs at the transfer station next year in addition to our social media efforts. Ms. Rombeau knows there are many people who would have been interested in participating that we just weren't able to reach this year. We will have to think about other ways to do so next year.

Chairman Kerr thanked Ms. Rombeau for staying on past her term with the Energy Commission to drive this. He reviewed the above-mentioned map (A Google map he created on his account and made public) with the commission members. He noted all the streets that DPW had been doing a great job to come out and cleanup. He noted when DPW comes out to do things, they have their own layer on the town street map online that tends to overwrite what other people have done – this is not necessarily bad because often times a street has to be cleaned up more than once because trash keeps accumulating. Chairman Kerr felt it might be a good idea to keep the map up so that cleaned up areas could be tracked moving forward but was unclear how to indicate when a street needs to be done again. We will have to decide if the map should be cleared quarterly, or annually so to help with this. Mr. Lu suggested posting quarterly a snapshot of the map on the last day before wiping it clean and putting up a new map. Chairman Kerr liked that idea and thought he could post a snapshot to the Energy Commission website and let everyone know that we are wiping everything clean on a given date and that we would be starting over from there. Ms. Rombeau suggested June 1st as the day to wipe the map clean. Chairman Kerr knows that we stop cleaning when the first big snowfall hits and we start again when it melts – so between those times we could clear either monthly, or quarterly depending on how much gets added to the map.

Ms. Rombeau asked for guidance on how often she should post online about this, to ensure that she is not bugging people, but letting them know the opportunity is out there. Should she post again in a couple weeks and give an update after Earth Day? Chairman Kerr said although the Energy Commission originally wanted to do this in conjunction with Earth Day, he is willing to leave this open if Ms. Rombeau is willing to continue the online updates all year long if people are going to make use of it. Ms. Rombeau decided she will post an update in a few weeks, and then post seasonally and let people know when we will reset the map. Chairman Kerr is unsure if there is any conflict to Ms. Rombeau serving in this capacity since she is no longer a member of the Energy Commission, but Ms. Rombeau said if another member is willing to step up to chair the effort, she would be happy to volunteer under them.

VI. Old Business

a. Green Business Award

1. Pandemic forced the award to be cancelled.

Chairman Kerr indicated that as we were trying to wrap up efforts on this, the COVID-19 pandemic hit so it had to be cancelled this year.

b. Solsmart

1. www.thesolarfoundation.org

A. Start with Bronze level

Chairman Kerr indicated that Ms. Braese had been spearheading this effort, and at last report there was paperwork (re: the amount of time it takes to get a permit to put a solar system on your roof

and things of that nature) that needed to be done and former Energy Commission member Chris Bandazian was trying to shepherd it through the town. Ms. Ricciardi shared that she has not yet had time to follow-up on it with the town with the pandemic and spearheading the Bedford Cares initiative which takes up 9-12 volunteer hours a day. Chairman Kerr indicated she was absolutely right in thinking that it wasn't pressing given the pandemic, but if the town staff is not addressing it because they have more important things to do, or because they aren't coming in to work we could just wait for everything to go back to normal; or if things are happening...maybe someone else could look into it. Ms. Ricciardi feels it could wait. Ms. Radke said she was willing to look into it and will do some research on it. She is personally interested in knowing more about it, so she can dive into it and we can talk about it more at the next meeting. Chairman Kerr suggested that she touch base with Ms. Braese who could update her on what we were doing.

c. Electricity Usage

1. Library big electricity consumer

A. DPW has purchased an Eyedro 3 phase energy monitor with web interface.

Peter Barbuto set the system up in March to get baseline data during April. Chairman Kerr said that the library and the Public Safety complex are the biggest users of electricity in the town. The Public Works department bought an Eyedro 3 phase energy monitor which has been installed for a couple weeks now. It shows live updates of our consumption at the library on the MyEyedro website. Day by day power consumption can be viewed on this site. Chairman Kerr reviewed it with the commission. He mentioned with the library shut down it should show the lowest usage we've seen because it's unoccupied. Chairman Kerr reviewed the highlights based on previous weeks activity and indicated the app will create a projected demand and follow-up with the actual demand. What is interesting to him is that we have a peak of 40 kWh which is a HUGE amount of electricity; so he is not sure what is consuming that much power, especially since the building is unoccupied; but this is the kind of thing that we will try and dive into with Public Works and narrow it down and find out what is going on. If it turns out it is due to the geothermal system and it is just the way the system works – then at least we will know. We are trying to look for ways to make the library more energy efficient and consume less power.

Mr. Gillis noted that on the MyEyedro chart for last month, the energy appeared to be much lower. Between March 27 – April 16th power usage seems to have gone way up. Chairman Kerr indicated that Peter Barbuto had set this up and Mr. Barbuto indicated that at the end of March we would see energy go up because he changed the way the 3-phase app was recording data. Mr. Barbuto is trying to achieve getting it to match what our power bills are at this point – and 3-phase can make it a little tricky. Perhaps the next billing cycle we can come up with a date to use as the baseline day. Still though...it is a large amount of power being used. Mr. Lu will look at the data on his spreadsheets and thinks we should be able to compare. Mr. Gillis saw a day with 700 kWh usage and thinks 700 kWh for one day is pretty massive.

Chairman Kerr indicated that this is the tool we will be using to look at consumption at the library, and then we can use the tool to measure usage at other facilities. The nice thing is that you can see live demand minute-by-minute with the system - - not just day-by-day. You could literally be in the building and turn things on and then off and see how they affect your consumption. One of the downfalls is that data can't be stored to compare later. It's only got a certain amount of storage in the cloud and the data may go away, so we'll have to figure out how to download the data for historical purposes to compared season-to-season.

- d. Change transfer station policy to put recyclables in solid waste
 - 1. Proposal to change resident sorting to reduce costs and be ready for any future changes in recycling policy
 - 2. Is an onsite paper/cardboard baler an option?
 - 3. Maybe look at an outdoor screen again as part of the public education effort
 - A. Look at the BHS sign the PTG installed this year

Mr. Foote explained that it is a contract that we have to live with until it expires in 2 years or until Waste Management and the Energy Commission want to have a conversation. He indicated the Jackson-Bartlett substation is probably what Bedford would have looked like about 15-years ago. If we want to talk about what we want to do for single waste stream recycling – with the economy being in tatters, he predicts the value of everything will plunge to nothing, except for metal. He is unsure what the economics are, and if we are subject to a pricing whiplash if the prices go up and we continue recycling stuff that Waste Management doesn't want. Chairman Kerr agrees, and in light of everything that is happening, we should probably put this on hold, but he wants to address some of this in the Jackson-Bartlett discussion we will hold later in the meeting.

Chairman Kerr had a conversation with new commission members Ms. Ricciardi and Ms. Radke to bring them up to speed, but summarized that once our current Waste Management contract ends the question is whether the town would want to do single stream (having users sort recyclables) and have the town decide whether it goes to a single stream processing facility or whether we take the cardboard and sell it on the market, and take the metal and sell that on the market separately. It would put more responsibility, yet more flexibility on the town to make the best use of materials that bring the highest value. If something is recyclable but not bringing value it could be sent to the incinerator because it is cheaper to burn stuff arguably than to recycle stuff when you weigh the financial concerns vs. the environmental concerns – and the town would then be in control to make a decision either way rather than having the contract hold all the control. This will be discussed further in this meeting under item h. on the agenda: “Jackson/Bartlett Transfer Station Q &A”.

- e. Plastic (#2) to structural plastic wood replacement
 - 1. Working with the Conservation Commission to possibly address a bridge in town.

Mr. Schneller was watching the meeting on BCTV and reported by text that the Conservation Commission is taking point with the DPW on plastic wood replacement for bridges. The Conservation Commission has now picked this up and is running with it, so it should probably come off future Energy Commission agendas.

- f. Incinerator tour

Mr. Russell reported that he put up a Google spreadsheet where commission members can reply with their availability for an incinerator tour. If people could respond with what days work best for them, and he can get a sense, for example, that Fridays work best for people, he can reach out to Jeremy and Steve to get an incinerator tour going once the pandemic blows over. Chairman Kerr suggested that Mr. Russell reach out to them first to find out when is a good time to restart the effort because if there is no possibility of having a tour, there is no sense in filling out the Google sheet.

Ms. Radke asked which facility we were planning to visit. Mr. Russell didn't have the information in front of him, but it is an incinerator facility in New Hampshire. Ms. Radke mentioned a facility called Wheelabrator located on the north side of Concord which is a place you could consider visiting as a back-up. She understands it is a nice place. The DPW director where she works went there and said it was amazing and you can learn so much about how they handle trash. Chairman Kerr indicated that one of the goals for this was to follow our trash and see where it goes. We took a tour to see where our recyclables go, and now it would be nice to see where our trash goes to be incinerated.

For the new members' sake, Mr. Russell stated that there is a bit of an ethical quandary - - do we just take plastics and burn it all. When we visited the recycling facility we got to see that cardboard was separated well, aluminum was separated very well, but it got a little dicey when it came down to paper and plastic being separated. They seem to be able to bale it and sell it - but the question is where we stand in that market in the future, and if there will even be a market for plastics. Personally, he would be disappointed if we had to incinerate plastics, but that is what we are hoping to learn is where we can go with our plastics before having to make the decision to burn it.

Chairman Kerr noted that there are pertinent articles posted on the commission's Google Group including one about how the plastics and packaging industry knew what was going on and deceived the public. It is a good discussion to have. What he continues to see is that other companies are doing something about it. IBM has created a process to sort plastic to re-use plastic. There are several bio-functions that use bacteria to break down PET in particular at a low enough temperature to make it more easily and efficiently recyclable. It's good that there is activity going on in that space. The more we can highlight the work that is going on - whether it causes us to change our behavior, or change the transfer station - and keep our eyes on what is coming down the road and modify our behavior to match what is available, would be beneficial. We need to keep up with the technology and match our behavior.

Mr. Russell also has a video about this that he will forward to new commission members, Ms. Ricciardi and Ms. Radke, so they can see what the Energy Commission did at their recycling facility tour. The ultimate goal is to figure out how to close the loop on this stuff. The ideal would be: You produce plastic; it serves a purpose; it goes back into the system and gets reused again. Mr. Foote said it will take some time to figure out because we didn't establish an ecology for it when we started out; now the costs are real that the ecology will develop itself. He may be visiting a pilot plant up north in Colebrook where they convert plastic into diesel fuel and could take all #2 and #4 plastics (the flexible plastic single use bags which are a nightmare for Waste Management and go right to the dump) that we could provide. It may be a good avenue for everything to go in their direction and convert it to useful diesel fuel. He can report back at the May meeting.

Chairman Kerr feels the "will" is there to make a change, and as more companies create pilot plants, and other resources there will be more things we can do with our recyclables. We need to stay vigilant and keep watching what is going on. Maine is also trying to do some legislation on reusable packaging and recyclable packing. He will try and find the article he saw about this and send it to the group.

g. New Boston transfer station tour.

The New Boston transfer station has user sorted recyclables, so it would be a good example for us to look at. Former commission member, Mr. Bandazian had been spearheading a visit for a tour.

At this time, it is probably not a good idea for a group of us to go for a tour. Mr. Foote was planning on perhaps going up on his own. Chairman Kerr thinks we could take the information he learned from Jackson-Bartlett (below) and use that in place of taking a tour in New Boston and take it off the agenda for next time.

h. Jackson/Bartlett transfer station Q&A

Q1: Do your sales of bailed recyclables cover the cost of labor and equipment?

A: Not entirely. Recyclables are dependent on a fluctuating market, and what is being accepted at the time. We spend a lot of man hours sorting, because people feel that “plastic is plastic” and put unacceptable materials in the bins. This is done with our regular crew who we are paying anyway, so it’s difficult to break out the actual cost.

Q2: To whom do you sell the bailed material?

A: Northeast Resource Recovery Association

Q3: Cost and capacity of bailers(s)

A: They have 3 bailers. The newest was purchased in 2015 for about \$17K and can be used for plastic, mixed paper, newspaper, steel, and tin cans. A separate bailer is used for corrugate cardboard. The 30” dep, 44” high, and 60” wide bailers average output is 1-2 bales a day.

Q4: Did the residents ask for this system or was it driven by the Town? How was the system accepted?

A: The majority of the town is onboard and voted to implement the system to cut the cost of tipping fees and keep stuff out of landfills.

Q5: How long has this user sorting system been in place?

A: It has been in place for a number of years. Every ton recycled saves \$66/ton dumping fee, so even if we break even on the recyclables we are still saving money.

Chairman Kerr was up in Jackson/Bartlett and visited their transfer station where they have user sorted recycling. It’s a small facility but they put a lot of effort into baling their own materials. They have a baler for cardboard and metal. Above are some of the questions we posed to them, and the answers we received.

Mr. Foote thinks this supports the idea that handling recyclables is barely economical except for the highly valuable stuff. When the selectman in Question #1 was asked if the baled recyclables cover the cost of the labor and equipment – although he said “not entirely” he thinks the real answer may be “not at all”; but the question is....where is the stuff going to go otherwise? Could they have someone come in and haul away their single stream recyclables – probably, but they are way up in the hinterlands and their volume is so low it would probably cost them a fortune, so what they’re doing is probably an equivalent choice to bringing somebody in and having them haul everything. “Are you saying, “ Chairman Kerr asked, “that because the hauling fees would be high for them, that it’s probably break-even (or close enough that they can’t really tell) that it’s cheaper to do it this way and actually make money on the valuable recyclables vs. hauling everything off?” Mr. Foote said that we also saw this with Waste Management who sold off milk jugs and soap containers for \$20/ton, but our cost to have it sent down there was closer to \$120/ton – so the delta is still very negative about doing something with the plastic and the size of the market

is so limited because the Chinese won't accept it anymore. At some point you've just saturated the whole economy with enough #2 plastic that nobody is every going to want to buy it again. At that point, what is your Plan B? That's why establishing some kind of an ecology is going to make a whole lot more sense.

Northeast Resource Recovery Association is buying the material. Back in the late 80's when Mr. Foote was doing facilities management he would buy chemicals from them. They would deal in waste chemicals that people could not get rid of. Some people's waste is something others would pay money for. Back then they were also taking recyclables and trying to market them for whatever they could get. Back then #1's had a market, and #2's, #4's and #5's did not. #3's never had a market and that material shouldn't even be used because they are chlorinated plastic that are not recyclable in any shape or form. #6's could be recycled but the volume was so high that economics won't ever work for that material – which is a shame because it is a really nice material.

Mr. Foote said if somebody has an outlet for this stuff, if we have enough of it, we could certainly sell it. He just doesn't think we would have viable outlets for very long because everyone else would be doing the same thing. Any creative market would be flooded.

Chairman Kerr thinks “flooded” is good because if it is cheaper to reuse the material that is a good thing. “ But the places where these plastics are made are down in Texas,” Mr. Foote said, “and we're not going to haul all #2's from here to Texas. There's got to be something locally useful.” Chairman Kerr agreed – it's got to be localized to minimize the transportation costs which would be the big issue.

In regard to Question #3 about the cost and capacity of balers: Chairman Kerr said Jackson/Bartlett has 3 balers purchased at a cost of \$17K in 2015 that can be used for plastic, mixed paper, newspaper, steel and tin cans and that seems pretty reasonable to him. Mr. Foote agreed. Back in the 80's he bought a cardboard baler in Connecticut and it cost about \$10K including the sorting shed built around it – and it was a profound money-maker for them back then because they were hauling so much trash 3x per week and once they got done pulling all the cardboard out they were only hauling 2x per month. The waste hauling bills went from around \$300K per month to \$20K.

In regard to Question #4 it sounds to Chairman Kerr like they had a warrant article or something to decide to do this. Seems like there was some altruism as well as some financial incentive. Depending on when it was done – and if it was done when the recycling market was beneficial - then it would have been a no-brainer because it would have been a money-maker.

In regard to Question #5 Mr. Foote said a “number of years” is probably when the former organization he worked for went from separated streams to single streams. \$66/ton is cheaper than what we are paying for our dumping fee – which seems odd (he surmised they must have a landfill close by). Chairman Kerr said it probably isn't even worth asking the question because we would never haul stuff all the way up north anyway.

VII. New Business

- a. Reset of municipal aggregation committee recommendation to Town Council
 1. With two new councilors and a new chairman, the need for this needs to be explained.
- b. June 5 CPNH (Community Power NH) Summit

Chairman Kerr talked with the new Energy Commission members and to bring them up to speed. Ms. Ricciardi made the point that there are two new Town Council members and we probably need to reset the whole conversation. He assumed that back whenever we gave this motion to the Town Council so they could vote on whether or not to create an aggregation committee that our Town Council Liaison at that time, Mr. Bandazian, would take it to the Town Council and explain it to them, but he doesn't know for sure if that's what happened. We may be in a better position to restart the conversation, put together a presentation to take to the Town Council to explain to them what we are trying to do and what we are trying to achieve so that they can make a better-informed decision rather than having to vote for something that landed on their desk that they really don't know enough about. Ms. Ricciardi said if you formulate a plan you would like to present - that is the best avenue; then you would contact the Town Council Chairman, Dave Gilbert, and ask for it to be on the agenda; then you could do a presentation. That is the procedural protocol. You can work through some of your meetings to figure out how you want to present that.

Chairman Kerr threw together a PowerPoint presentation, which he shared with the group. He reviewed it and asked if there was anyone on the commission that would like to work with him to put together information that would help the Town Council to understand what municipal aggregation is about and why we think the Energy Commission should be the aggregation committee for that. The bottom line is saving Bedford residents money on their electric bills. Ms. Ricciardi thanked Chairman Kerr for all the work he had put into this and said that even though his PowerPoint presentation was preliminary, she would ask that he forward it to Dave Gilbert. She thinks it would be good to plant that seed and let him review what you've done. Chairman Kerr would like to clean it up first and would like to include anyone else's perspective that may want to help him with this.

Ms. Radke asked if there were any towns in New Hampshire that had already established an aggregation committee. Chairman Kerr said that most towns had taken their existing Energy Commission and made them their aggregation committee. There are a couple of towns that used individuals rather than existing committees because they didn't have an existing committee. Ms. Radke asked if the aggregation committee he was proposing would consist entirely of the existing Energy Committee or if he would be soliciting others to join the aggregation committee. Chairman Kerr said the suggestion was to use the existing Energy Commission as the aggregation committee because it already exists and is not tied to any one individual. Ms. Radke asked if the Energy Commission would do some research and come back to the Town Council with their findings. "Yes," Chairman Kerr said, and he indicated that we've already had a number of companies (Henry Herndon from Clean Energy New Hampshire; Freedom Energy and the company that currently does energy consulting for Bedford, Access Energy) come and talk at our Energy Commission meetings back in the Fall after the law was passed to explain to us what this was all about and what the potential benefits would be. The companies that would do a turn-key service are still learning the ins-and-outs because the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is still writing the rules for this. Community Power New Hampshire is actively engaged with the PUC to write the rules for this and clarify things; so, it's still in the early stages and nothing is set in stone, and nobody is ready to turn anything on yet; but Chairman Kerr thinks the more we know about what is going on, and the more we know what our options are, it will enable the town to make a better decision earlier rather than waiting for all the other towns to precede us; but it is up the Town Council if they want to wait and see how it works out for other towns or be one of the leaders.

Ms. Radke asked if the Energy Commission makes a presentation recommending that people in the town go on board with the energy company, would the people who do not go on board and stay with Eversource get penalized? Chairman Kerr explained that it is an opt-out system; so, if you don't mind, you will be opted in. If you do mind, you have two opportunities to opt out and you would go back to Eversource as your default supplier and you are not penalized. With an opt-in model you never really get enough buying power to buy power at a reasonable rate, so by combining more residents we have more buying power to make it more viable. Mr. Schneller added that the way it works is that all residents would be in the program, and you have to opt out if you choose not to be in the program.

Years ago, Ms. Radke recalls getting information in the mail about going with another electricity company. Mr. Gillis says he gets those things in the mail all the time, and that is actually one of the reasons this program was created because a lot of those offers give you a good deal for a little while, but then they start jacking the rate up. Because so many people were being taken advantage of is partially the reason that the town now has the ability to do this, because we want to do it right and do what the whole point of that system was in the first place: To allow people to buy power in a group at a low rate and not have to worry about the savings going away in 6 months. Because it would be run by the town, the town would not rip them off and would give them the low rate the town has already negotiated.

Mr. Paradis volunteered to help Chairman Kerr out with this effort, and Mr. Lu would like to help with the presentation slides to make them look nice.

Chairman Kerr shared that on June 5 Community Power New Hampshire (CPNH) is having a summit. One of the reasons he was trying to get the article allowing the Energy Commission to become the aggregation commission passed by the town was so that he or someone else on the commission could represent Bedford going to some of these events. He has been going to some of these events and listening and participating, but not representing Bedford because he has no official capacity; but, it would be nice if he could at least speak for Bedford to say that we are interested in this or bring information to the Town Council or let Town Council give him direction on what they want to do, so maybe by June we could have something in place on the first portion of this so that Bedford can be represented in some of these conversations.

Mr. Foote suggested that if we took a vote the group could delegate Chairman Kerr to be the Energy Commission representative. Chairman Kerr said we could, but the law requires that there is an aggregation committee, and we need to do that if we want to move forward. As an individual citizen he is being invited to these things and bringing the information back to the Energy Commission and on to the Town Council. He would feel more comfortable if the town recognized the official process so that we could officially interact at these things. Ms. Ricciardi spoke on the policies and procedures. She said Chairman Kerr could attend and speak as a resident, but the Energy Commission doesn't have the power and authority to speak on behalf of the town – so there's charter in things. Chairman Kerr agrees, and said even if RSA 53 was voted on and passed by the town and we created an aggregation committee he still wouldn't be able to speak for the town, and he makes that very clear when he attends these meetings; but he would feel more comfortable, for example, asking Eversource for data on our electric usage if we actually had that aggregation committee established.

In closing, Mr. Foote wanted to thank Chris Bandazian for all the work he put in over the years on this, because this was his baby. Chairman Kerr and Mr. Russell agreed. Chairman Kerr leaves

the door open for him to work as a volunteer with the Energy Commission or come back on the Energy Commission as a private citizen. Mr. Russell asked if there was any way to retain Mr. Bandazian and Ms. Rombeau's energy on the Energy Commission and asked procedurally what we could do. Chairman Kerr said that there is one open position on the Energy Commission, but the town charter changed and the appointments to commissions are made in May rather than March; so, his own term is expiring and would have to be reauthorized by the Town Council in May and they are trying to figure out a way to do interviews. So, there is one open spot, and if the town decides not to bring Chairman Kerr back there will be two open spots for people to come in on the Energy Commission. He doesn't know if we have a maximum size and if we could add more people, but the Town Council would be in charge of that. So, there is currently one open position that the Town Council will make a decision on, and there are a couple of people who are interested. Mr. Russell wondered if we could make some type of committee and invite them to participate on it without being formally part of the Energy Commission. Chairman Kerr is unsure, but he stated that the meetings are open to the public, so anyone can come and give their input, but the town has to approve the commission members.

In closing Chairman Kerr thanked Ms. Rombeau for all her work and hopes she will stay involved.

VIII. Reminders: Next upcoming meeting is Thursday, May 28, 2020

IX. Adjournment

**MOTION to adjourn by Mr. Gillis at 8:18 P.M. Seconded by Mr. Russell.
Vote taken- Motion Passed 8-0.**

Respectfully submitted by,
Tiffany Lewis