

**TOWN OF BEDFORD**  
**October 24, 2019**  
**ENERGY COMMISSION MINUTES**

A meeting of the Bedford Energy Commission was held on Thursday, October 24, 2019 at the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, NH.

Present: Jeff Kerr (Chair), Chris Bandazian (Town Council Liaison), Catherine Rombeau (Town Council Liaison Alternate), John Schneller (School Board Liaison), Bill Foote (School Board Liaison Alternate), Andrew Gillis, Sarah Braese, Tim Paradis

Absent: John Russell (Vice Chair), Bing Lu

I. Call to Order: Chairman Kerr opened the meeting at 7:00 PM

II. Quorum Count: 8

III. Approval of Minutes – September 26, 2019

Ms. Braese had one suggested edit on Pg. 6 of the September 26, 2019 minutes: It should read, “Joppa Hill MAY be interested in hosting” – it has not been confirmed yet.

**MOTION by Mr. Bandazian to approve the September 26, 2019 minutes with the above-mentioned edit. Seconded by Mr. Gillis. 2 abstentions (Ms. Rombeau & Mr. Foote). Vote taken – Motion Passed – All in favor.**

IV. Reports of Members and Committees

a. Legislative update

Mr. Bandazian reported that there are lots of LSR’s are pending, but the text is not yet available.

b. School projects

Mr. Schneller reported that he connected Jeff Foote with the composite recycling company (re: trails, parks & rec, and town projects). Jeff has a lot on his plate, so he probably won’t get to that until the end of the year or beginning of 2020. He has two projects in mind already. Because we would be a beta tester they would give the town and or scouts that assist us a good price.

Mr. Bandazian said that the Superintendent of Schools was in touch with Town Council about recycling posters for the school district. Over the course of the past month the school system had posters that were not consistent with the town’s single stream recycling, so Jerome Spooner, Town Environmental Coordinator got in touch with Waste Management and there is now a poster for the schools about “the dirty dozen” that should not be recycled including single use plastic bags and other items. 12 posters were brought to the SAU and 2 each will be posted in each school building, and the image is also posted on the town website under “recycling”.

V. Special Orders

- a. Henry Herndon of Clean Energy NH and Gilbert Brown & Thomas Carter of Freedom Energy on municipal aggregation

Mr. Herndon discussed Community Choice Aggregation as it is called in California, Municipal Aggregation Community Power as they call it in New Hampshire (an example would be “Bedford Community Power”). Mr. Herndon is the Director of Local Energy Solutions at Clean Energy New Hampshire a 501(c)3 member-based nonprofit. Bedford is one of Clean Energy New Hampshire’s municipal members. Mr. Herndon’s role at Clean Energy New Hampshire is to support municipalities in implementing energy projects that help them reduce their energy costs. He discussed Community Power and noted that Senate Bill 286 was signed into law on August 2, 2019 and becomes effective as of October 1, 2019.

Mr. Herndon discussed Senate Bill 286, which grants local governments, cities, towns and counties greater choices in sourcing their energy on behalf of their residents and businesses which means that the town can craft a portfolio of energy resources that provide competitive supply energy to all residents and businesses in the community who are not already purchasing their own competitive energy. In addition to the competitive energy supply a town can include contracts with new (ex. Solar Energy Company) or existing energy generators (ex. NH Hydro) in their portfolio. It is all about community choice and allowing the town to have control over where its energy comes from. Once the program is adopted all residents are automatically enrolled, and anyone can choose to “opt-out” if they already have their own competitive energy contracts. It is important to note that they are NOT becoming the utility. This is only about the energy supply portion of the electric, not the delivery, distribution or transmission system of poles and wires. The electric distribution utility, Eversource, will continue to deliver the power. The Energy Commission or Town governing body decides how to arrange the portfolio.

Aggregation means the grouping of retail electric customers to provide, broker or contract for electricity power supply and retail customer services which may include the supply of electric power, demand side management, conservation, meter reading, new meter installation and communication (subject to PUC approval), customer service, other related services, and the operation of energy efficiency and clean energy districts (RSA 53-F). There is potential to do demand-side management programs or conservation energy efficiency, innovative things with meter reading, and a number of other services. A community power program could be an individual municipality, a county (note that municipal aggregations shall take priority or precedence over any county aggregations), a group of municipalities that join together operating jointly pursuant to RSA 53-F. Costs will depend upon the individual program and there is potential for cost savings. Customers who opt-out will not be liable for any of the costs associated with the program. A community power program can operate as a self-supporting enterprise fund generating surplus revenues to cover the administrative costs of the program and which can be reinvested into the program. Community Power plans are not municipal utilities or regulated utilities engaging in the wholesale purchase and resale of power. Utilities continue to operate the grid (transmission and distribution) and are regulated by the state and federal government. A Community Power plan may elect to participate in the ISO New England wholesale energy market as a load serving entity for the purpose of procuring or selling electrical energy or capacity on behalf of its participating retail electrical customers. NH Public Utilities Commission may adopt a rule governing relationship between Community Power and distribution utilities, metering notice of commencement or termination of program or reestablishing of program.

There may be regulatory rule-making proceedings at the commission at a later date. The Public Utilities Commission that regulates the distribution utilities in the State has not expressed any desire to do proactive rulemaking thus far, but at some point logistics may need to be worked out by the commission. They may standardize data acquisition from the distribution utility because in order to operate one of these programs the meter data from the utility must be given to these programs in order to determine the load of the town and individual meters. Community Power programs may 1) Contribute to the cost of electric utility provided meters, 2) Jointly own revenue grade meters with an electric utility OR 3) Provide its own revenue grade electric meter.

A community power program that is up and running, could implement their own metering systems and log data in real time which is quite affordable and readily available (rather than the current system of logging data monthly which is quite limited) and you can lower costs and generate surpluses. One of the takeaways is that there is a broad range of energy you can do: At one end of the spectrum you could hire a competitive energy supplier to sell you competitive energy at a discount from your distribution utility and save everyone in your town some small discount; and on the other end of the spectrum you could incorporate smart meters and contracts with new generators and demand flexibility. You do not have to do it all at once. The program can grow over time, generate surpluses over time, and continues to incorporate more and more services to the benefit of the community.

Mr. Bandazian asked if there were any other communities adopting. Mr. Herndon said the City of Lebanon, NH is adopting and many other communities that are interested and have renewable energy goals. We are at early stages of implementation and many communities have expressed interest and are developing programs. It is all very new and he is providing lots of education.

The local authorization process works as follows: The local governing body of the municipality or county would form Community Power Committee and the committee would develop a community power plan. After the plan is authored the legislative body at a town meeting would vote to approve the plan to implement the Community Power program. The plan is the framework where you are setting your goals about rates, financing, etc. and once the program is up and running the contracts will follow.

How these programs may actually function: The old model/Massachusetts model is to hire an outside consultant and they negotiate with a supplier which sells you a fixed-priced energy product from a competitive energy supplier which may include renewable energy credits if the town has green goals. This is different than what is possible under New Hampshire law. Procurement could involve multiple contracts with multiple suppliers, and the ability to contract with newer existing renewables. This was pioneered in California which sets up staffed agencies that operate these things in real time and contract with new projects and have local programs as well. The idea is that you've got your procurement, maybe you have contracts with some generators, and you will marry those two things so your contracts with your generators fit hand-in-glove with your procurement strategy. Over time as local programs get up and running you could integrate more demand-side community side resources to shave load, lower peaks, lower costs on the procurement side of the program and that could include managed electrical vehicle charging to energy efficiency and conservation etc. Smart meters could play a role in this.

Mr. Herndon reviewed the organizational structure: Bedford Community Power program would be the governance. They approve the program and make decisions about rates and goals and the high-level things the program would do. The Service Providers would be the competitive energy

suppliers, customer service, renewable energy developers, and local programs. Some towns may not have the sophistication to manage all of those types of contracts so an Agent could serve as the management – it could be someone hired by the Town, an individual or an operating entity, someone under contract (public or private). It is important for Bedford to be thinking about what they would like to achieve with this, what is the array of options, and how they go about achieving their goals through the right agent (Freedom Energy, whom we will hear from tonight, as well as other companies serve as agents). As you move through setting up a program it is important to distinguish whether you are talking to a service provider who could become your agent and tailor their business model to your Community Power program or if you are hiring an Agent who is actually going to be able to deliver all of the different services of all the different businesses that can participate in these programs. Clean Energy NH is looking for ways to share lessons from earlier adopters with other towns, so small towns with less capacity can still easily implement a Community Power program, and how they might share services so the program can be available large and small communities alike.

Mr. Bandazian noted that Mr. Herndon is moderating a webinar on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at Noon and people can sign up for the webinar at [NHEnergy.org](http://NHEnergy.org); and the local Energy Solutions Conference is taking place on Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Thomas Carter and Gilbert Brown from Freedom Energy discussed community choice aggregation. They would love to see this implemented by as many cities and towns as possible in 2020. The City of Lebanon is a client of theirs who is really shooting for the stars and going after this, which is very exciting. Community Choice Aggregation is very doable and attainable for towns and is very simple and could become more sophisticated as time goes on.

August (Gus) Fromuth is the founder of Freedom Energy and his son Bart, a former State Representative here in Bedford, is the Chief Operating Officer. The Freedom Energy offices are based in Auburn, NH and the company has about 30 employees. They are local and understand the utilities they are working with. The company is award-winning and is very proud that General Dynamics (the world's 5<sup>th</sup> largest defense contractor) named Freedom Energy us their 2016 Small Business Vendor of the Year.

Community choice aggregation is needed because there have been predatory practices in energy deregulation from multi-level marketing companies and fly-by-night companies in this industry and there are many “gotchas” and teaser rates out there which can be very confusing. Many of the best suppliers do not work with small residential clients who have limited purchasing power. Up to this point there has only been opt-in aggregation. Freedom Energy ran the largest opt-in aggregation program in New Hampshire, so they have a lot of experience in this in our home State. Senate Bill 286 really turns everything on its head and gets a lot of buy-in. A lot of residents don't feel that the competitive energy market has been a place for them to actually play in, so for the first time Senate Bill 286 is bringing a level playing field and having competitive suppliers who work with large national companies, the biggest end users, and communities and towns and it is bringing them to the same level and saying, “if we aggregate our load and leverage that power with the volume – we can write our own contracts using language that is more consumer-friendly and offer what commercial users have to residential users.” It is all brand new and exciting.

Senate Bill 286 received overwhelming bipartisan support; enables unprecedented purchasing power for the smaller Residential Rate Class and General Business Class; enables local municipalities to purchase “home-grown” renewable energy from their local projects; and enables

future energy technologies such as dynamic pricing, demand response, and battery storage applications. Once a project like this is implemented we can discuss what iterations you would like down the line and what they could look like.

The City of Lebanon is talking about purchasing dynamic pricing, and the town of Hanover is purchasing from the New England power grid and are averaging rates of 6 ½-cents per kilowatt hour. Eversource costs 8, 9, and even 10-cents per kilowatt hour. If really granular meters are placed on a house the homeowner can actually see what kind of energy is being burned at different times of the day. Freedom Energy is purchasing energy for their largest clients every 10-minutes, so they are benefitting from off-peak usage. Off peak usage on a residential level might mean that you are charging your car after hours when energy costs virtually nothing and is sometimes free, or you are running your laundry at night. You are able to help the grid because you can come offline or use less energy when the rest of the world is cranking.

Having a community choice aggregation program that works with a fixed rate for a year and helps see some savings, might be a good Step 1. Step 2 would be working in virtual net metering - that bill did not pass, but in the future tying local generators – whether hydro or solar, etc. – and running different programs with Freedom Energy acting as the Agent meeting with the Town Council and the Town Energy Committee of Bedford to come up with a plan where we test pilot some accounts on a real-time contract where you are getting the benefit of off-peak hours at 2 ½ -cents for the energy portion which comes into an all-around price of 5 to 6-cents as opposed to the fixed price for town aggregation around 7 or 8-cents. You can try different programs and opportunities within the community choice aggregation that will help meet the goals of the community.

Mr. Carter explained how community choice aggregation works (and the town could take as little or as much of Freedom Energy's help as they want. Most municipalities want this to be turn-key, and that is what Freedom Energy provides including boilerplate contracts and boilerplate notices that go out including opt-in cards that you can put in to place immediately. There are also templated community power websites which are plug-and-play so the town does not have to think about all of these things because they have already been done for you. As you develop a greater understanding of this, the town may decide they want to do it on their own somewhere down the road in the future):

1. Decide on an Energy Plan – The leadership of the community (Bedford Town Council) work with a consulting firm (FEL) to develop an energy plan for their community. These plans will vary by community priorities such as Cost Savings, Local Renewables, REC's, blends thereof.
2. From Energy Plan to Warrant Article – On Town Meeting Day in March the Energy Plan is voted upon by the citizens.
3. Plan Set-Up: FEL assembles the supplier bids via RFP, presents top options and makes their recommendations to Bedford Town Counsel. Bedford Town Counsel chooses suppliers with best rate plan option and FEL moves to implementation.
4. Plan Implementation – FEL works with chosen supplier and LDC (Eversource) to enroll community accounts, eliminating accounts already under 3<sup>rd</sup> party supply and accounts that decide to opt out.
5. Plan Fulfillment – FEL, Supplier and Eversource maintain community accounts for the duration of the contracted rate. FEL administers future renewal RFP, advises on emerging tech, etc. (There would be an 800 number for Bedford coming into Freedom Energy's office so they can handle all of this).

Freedom Energy offers a turn-key solution and can get into more sophisticated solutions if wanted, in the future. The turn-key solution includes:

1. Energy Plan – Our community choice energy plan template is designed to NH RSA 53-E and are ready to be customized to your town’s sustainability goals.
2. Sample Timeline, Notifications, Opt-Out Cards, etc. – Program templates have been designed per RSA 53-E specifications and are ready for town-specific customization.
3. Town CCA website – FEL provides and maintains web domain [www.CommunityChoiceNH.com/Bedford](http://www.CommunityChoiceNH.com/Bedford) and local customer service numbers (e.g. 1-800-BEDFORD)
4. Advisory/Consultation – In addition to creating and managing your CCA program, our expertise on multiple levels of purchasing (Fixed Rates, Realtime/Dynamic pricing, Direct-to-Grid self-supply) will open doors for future levels of sophistication.

Community Choice Aggregation maximized the buying power of a community:

- Protecting the consumer from annual price volatility (For someone on a fixed income as the utility sets their standard offer rate twice a year that up and down can be really damaging to a small household budget)
- Protecting the uninformed consumer from predatory business practices
- Providing the most freedom of choice – community members opt-in/opt-out
- Providing access to bulk rates for electricity
- Educating residents on responsible energy use
- Attracting businesses and residents to the area by lowering electricity rates.

You can take a deeper dive: November 15, 2019 at the Local Energy Solutions Conference at The Grappone Center, in Concord New Hampshire.

Mr. Paradis summarized that we could go the Massachusetts model and have somebody buy power in aggregate at a cheaper rate than what we are currently paying through Eversource, so if we all came together we could save, for example \$30 on our energy bill by saving 2-cents or whatever it may be, and if we want to develop it over time we can use services to have more efficient reading of the meters so we can save more money over time or loop in other things like renewable energy, and he asked if we can have the power to come together as a town to get power cheaper and then build out from that? Mr. Carter said that was correct.

Mr. Kerr said what he learned today is that the way you fund this is through a spread in the price that you are getting energy from, and that you are charging; so, if you take 2-cents or some percentage and you put that aside then you can fund the purchase of smart meters for a future project, or over a long period of time build a solar field and make that part of your energy generation. This is a long-term process where you are taking a little bit of that spread off cost savings – so your town residents will see savings, but not the maximum savings because there is the possibility of taking some of the savings and investing into more future benefits and improvements.

Mr. Foote asked who would own the meters. Chairman Kerr said it would be the town (through the town itself, or through an agent). Right now, the meter is owned by the utility – Eversource. Mr. Carter said the town would own the meter, but the utility would work to operate it with them because they are the supplier. He shared that the City of Lebanon is working with their utility Liberty Utilities to get hourly data which is helpful, but there are meters out there that can get data

down to every 6 seconds, but the problem is that Liberty Utilities is struggling with billing to that specificity and this is something Freedom Energy can come in and help with.

Mr. Foote asked if Freedom Energy has examples of warrants that have been written, because he is struggling with how we would tell the townspeople that we could save a penny per kilowatt hour or we could save more or less than that. How do you have a bottom-line number that you would present? Chairman Kerr said he took himself as an example and looked at how much he would save based on his usage which is about 20,000 kwh per year. Going from the Eversource rate which is 8.2-cents per kwh to the competitive provider he is on now at 7.8-cents would save him about \$200 per year, and he could save maybe another \$200/year if the rate went down to 7-cents. It's not a huge savings per person, but it is notable – especially if you are on a fixed income or budgeting there is some value to that for sure. Mr. Carter said to keep in mind that Chairman Kerr's figures are on his buying power alone, and with a bulk purchasing model you may be able to save another ½ cent off that amount. Chairman Kerr said people often have grandiose ideas that it is going to save them 50% of their energy bill – and it simply is not going to do that, but you have to look at from a climate change perspective, and from a local energy perspective as opposed to importing energy. There is a lot of things we would need to do to educate the town about what can be done with this possibility. Mr. Foote said that for a warrant you have to demonstrate a number at the bottom line and the selling point will be what the cost impact will be for residents. Chairman Kerr thinks the selling point is there: It is 10-15% and you can guarantee that you will be paying less than the Eversource rate. Mr. Gillis said that even if it was 1% or 5% why wouldn't the town want to do it? Mr. Carter said that in Massachusetts they roll out plans offering an "Option A with a certain percentage of green energy" and an "Option B with a certain amount of savings" so residents can make their own choices themselves.

Mr. Paradis asked if we have to decide on the warrant what the facility will be, or could we set up an aggregate and figure out what the specifics logistics would be later? He doesn't want it to be too complicated initially. He would prefer we start with the basics. Mr. Carter said it has to come later. Mr. Brown feels putting out a warrant article and receiving the public input and having the Bedford Energy Commission come up with a structure that deals with sustainability, pricing, etc. makes it become a conversation about what your goals are and what best serves the public. It becomes more involved after the warrant process when you take it through the steps. Ms. Rombeau asked if they have a plan with simple language. Mr. Brown shared a copy of a plan for review.

Mr. Schneller asked if there were upfront costs to residents. Mr. Carter said there are no upfront costs to residents. Mr. Schneller asked if an individual can opt-out midstream. Mr. Carter said an individual is not locked into a long-term contract and can opt-out.

Ms. Rombeau asked if there was a 30-day opt out. Mr. Carter said there is a 30-day opt out to their meter read (currently the meters are read monthly. Mr. Schneller asked if a resident does not allow Eversource to install a smart meter in their house if that made them automatically opted-out or could they still participate? Mr. Carter said that the resident would still be purchasing supply so they could still participate.

Mr. Schneller asked if they would help the town to co-market the program. Mr. Carter said they would be present at town meetings and work hand-in-hand with the town as they move forward with this. Mr. Schneller asked if they would they work with town attorney to customize a boilerplate. Mr. Carter answered "Yes". Mr. Schneller asked if it would serve the schools, or only residents. Mr. Brown answered that it serves all resident accounts that are in the local utility

(Eversource). He asked if the school had a contract for energy. Mr. Foote indicated that it does, and the contract has about another year or two left on it because they just got into it last year. Mr. Brown said that in the future you could build schools into the program but it doesn't affect any meters currently under third party supply, so it doesn't interrupt any services. Chairman Kerr feels it would be more beneficial to combine the town and the schools from a purchasing power perspective. Mr. Carter agreed that it would be more beneficial size-wise. The town would surpass the bulk purchasing of even the schools together, or the municipality together. He asked if the municipality is purchased separate from the schools (they are) - - so he said they would continue on as separate contracts but at the expiration of those contract they could be wrapped into the program if desired and at that point it would probably be a beneficial rate.

Mr. Schneller asked how many employees Freedom Energy has. Mr. Carter said Freedom Energy has about 30 employees.

## VI. Old Business

### a. Green Business Award

1. Nominations Due Wednesday, March 18, 2020
2. Reviews completed at March 2020 BEC Meeting
3. Awards Presented/Announced on Earth Day – April 22, 2020
  - A. The goal is to have some sort of town-wide event or events such as a road clean-up and formal presentation
  - B. Timeline and posting flyers on Facebook

Chairman Kerr is concerned that if we don't get information about the award posted we will not have businesses applying, and in turn will not have anyone to award this to in April. Mr. Schneller asked if the businesses had to be in Bedford, or if they could be owned by someone who lives in Bedford. Chairman Kerr indicated that as it stands now the business must physically be located in Bedford, although the Energy Commission sets the rules. Mr. Schneller thought that Freedom Energy would be a good candidate (although they are owned by someone from Bedford, but not located physically in the town). Ms. Braese is unsure if there is anything in the application specifying that, so we would need to decide what type of nominations we would like to accept.

Ms. Braese feels if we push the Green Business Awards out now it would be great because it would give us a sense between now and December whether we receive any nominations, and if not we would have to push harder in the months leading to the nomination due date (Wednesday, March 18, 2020). It is a good idea to get it on Facebook now. In marketing people need to see something 6-7 times before they take action, so starting now would be beneficial.

Mr. Schneller asked if there is a budget. Chairman Kerr said there is no budget. Mr. Schneller asked if we could go to the town to see if they can provide any marketing funds. Chairman Kerr said Ms. Braese printed flyers on her own, and he feels the next steps are putting it up on social media and then one-on-one contact with businesses and suggesting that they nominate themselves to hopefully get some momentum going until nominations becomes automatic in future years.

Ms. Braese said there is a Google Doc containing a sign-up sheet that commission members can use to sign up for which businesses they plan on approaching to discuss the Green Business Award and drop-off a flyer. There are some on the list that need someone to visit them – no one has signed

up for those businesses yet. Beth Evarts, Chair of the Conservation Commission will make an announcement about the Green Business Award to members of the Conservation Commission at their next meeting.

Ms. Rombeau brought up the use of structural plastic in place of wood on the trails and Ms. Evarts recommended reaching out to the Land Trust because they have a lot of business advisors and connections, as well as the Rotary who would be excellent to reach out to. She mentioned that Bob Macpherson, member of the Conservation Commission is heavily involved in the Rotary. Ms. Evarts thinks it would be amazing to pull the efforts of the two commissions together this year or next. She likes the idea of having an Earth Day celebration and having the Conservation and Energy Commissions come together to do some planning on that and would love to assist with the marketing of the Green Business Award and raising awareness.

b. EV Charging Station Encouragement Project

1. Visit or bring in local businesses that have level 2 chargers
2. Add to Green Business Award criteria.

Mr. Bandazian reported that the Southern New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission can assist with electric vehicle planning infrastructure of policy regulatory development and that the contact is Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission Principal Transportation Planner, Carl Eppich. The Planning Department is thinking about how to implement EV charging and making the process as easy as possible. The VW settlement money will be going toward killing dirty diesel. Mr. Bandazian feels it is useful to reach out to see what the learning is on this collectively and will reach out to the Carl Eppich and we can decide next month if it is something to pursue or drop.

c. Landfill Solar

A. May come back under municipal aggregation

Chairman Kerr was ready to take this off the agenda, but with community aggregation this topic seems to be back. He says perhaps we could raise enough money over the long term and pay for and build this ourselves or else contract with a supplier to build an array and receive a guaranteed rate from that and we become the off taker of that same power. It is to our benefit to be the one owning the land, getting a lease payment and lowering the rate – so that is definitely an asset we have in our pocket and we need to figure out how to leverage and maximize that assuming we go forward with community aggregation.

d. Solsmart

1. [www.thesolarfoundation.org](http://www.thesolarfoundation.org)

A. Start with the Bronze level

Mr. Bandazian reported that there is a public hearing scheduled on some changes to the building code. At that point the building department would be able to say that they've made things more accessible for PV. After the hearing if changes are approved and go through it would give us more points for Solsmart.

Chairman Kerr asked if there was any thought to doing this in conjunction with the Green Business Award and letting people know that we've achieved a certain status with Solsmart and are now looking for businesses to nominate for the Green Business Award. Mr. Bandazian said it was not a bad idea; however, it depends on timing, and getting the code to be rewritten may be a challenge

because it is also budget season and we are in the middle of Master Plan work, so people are stretched.

- e. Eversource bills to calculate demand charges
  1. Pool apparently runs 24/7 – no demand charges and might be a good PV candidate
  2. Library big electricity consumer – work to find out what is driving usage
    - a. Investigating the purchase of Io Ta Watt open source energy monitoring system for less than \$250

Nothing was discussed in Mr. Lu's absence; however, Chairman Kerr said this may be something that could be funded by community aggregation to get a smaller solar project up and running and save money before we do a larger one. Maybe we do smaller incremental projects and use several different revenue streams to do larger projects.

Mr. Gillis mentioned that consultants had come to the schools to check out the power to make sure we weren't wasting money and asked if anyone had done something similar for things like the pool. He noted that the pool still uses a lot of power during the winter. Chairman Kerr said that he and Mr. Bandazian had been talking about diving into that level of detail with the pool and the library, and if we look at the Io Ta Watt project which is open source project to allow you to look into that. If Public Works buys one of these Io Ta Watt systems we can go around and look at the pool, library and other areas to see if their power usage is out of whack or not.

Mr. Foote asked why the pool runs 24-hours a day and is not turned off at night. Chairman Kerr noted that at a past meeting Mr. Paradis said that it is more efficient to run the pool filters 24/7. Chairman Kerr is unsure if this means they need to be run during the winter as well – it is something we can investigate.

Sue Bradford, County Road, asked if the energy drain could be coming from the tennis court lights. She said they are on even when people are not playing tennis on the courts. Chairman Kerr said we've had that conversation before and that the lights are on a different meter. He said that Jeff Foote of Public Works came in last month and informed everyone that the lights at the tennis courts are now being operated by a bump switch which turns the tennis court lights on, and they are on a timer and get turned off.

Chairman Kerr said by using the \$250 Io Ta Watt system up to 12 different branch circuits can be monitored and we could see what is consuming the most power in the library and pool. At the library there are 5 sub panels that are not part of the geothermal system and we could measure each one of those in parallel if we bought 5 systems, or if we bought 1 system we could move it week-to-week or month-to-month and see which panel is consuming the most power in the library. After the geothermal was installed at the library the electricity usage went down about 22%, so it sounds like most of the usage is either in lighting or computers, and whatever is making the demand charges is probably not the geothermal system. We have investigating to do, and this is an inexpensive way to do it, so we should see if the Department of Public Works would be willing to buy an Io Ta Watt system. We could then use the same system on the pool, tennis courts, and then the ball fields, etc.

- f. Town Solar
  1. Pool PV array size would be roughly 67' x 60' –Andrew estimates \$55K

A. Could we do this as a volunteer project like HAREI?

Chairman Kerr reported that with community aggregation this could be part of the portfolio, so he will leave this topic on the agenda.

g. 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 reported that Jeff Foote at Public Works said the contract isn't until another two years, so there is not much that can be done short of us keeping valuable steel for ourselves (which is not something we would do because it would break a contract). Chairman Kerr said that based on the conversation last month with Jeff Foote Public Works just doesn't have the time and resources to investigate things like this. He asked if Mr. Foote could run through the numbers (manpower and storage) and help Jeff Foote by providing a plan it might be helpful to him.

Mr. Gillis said that the town of New Boston bales everything themselves and sells everything on the open market and maybe we should look at their operation. Chairman Kerr suggests doing this individually rather than scheduling a commission visit with minutes, etc. Mr. Foote wondered if it would be of interest to Waste Management to modify our contract if we told them the only thing they would be getting from us would be metal and fiber and then do whatever you want with the glass – then everything else would go into the trucks and it would get them down to having two balers. He is unsure if that would be experimental for them, and if they would want to deal with the mixed plastics and mixed #4 plastics that screw up all their lines. Basically, they would be taking finished paper product from us, glass (to go wherever they take it to), and metal (which is another straight-up sort for them and they're done). We would be doing them a favor by providing this and then all they would have to do is deal with the metal. It would be a win-win for them if they get the aluminum and the steel. Chairman Kerr feels this is the type of thinking we should place on a list and take them to Jeff Foote or Waste Management to see if they are amenable to it. Mr. Foote thinks it would be a win-win for everyone. Mr. Gillis thinks we should start small with the baler because it is the easiest thing and it creates a valuable product - and then go from there. Mr. Schneller noted that it also has a revenue stream attached to it and could be leased. It could be a net every month – sell the cardboard and lease the baler.

h. Plastic (#2) to structural plastic wood replacement

Ms. Rombeau asked if there were any projects of the right size for this. Mr. Schneller said the main issue is that we probably won't even get to anything even at the discussion-level with Department of Public Works until at least January or even spring. Jeff Foote is definitely receptive, though. The project at Pulpit Trail (rebuilding bridges) could be done with town oversight and volunteer work by the Boy Scouts. Ms. Evarts said that Van Loan Preserve has a big span that needs to be replaced. It is bigger than a Boy Scout project. Chairman Kerr said that we found an Ohio company melting down #2 plastic to replace wood for building that has excellent structural properties. They built a bridge in Maine with it. We would like to use this recycled material as a replacement for wood. Ms. Evarts recommends looking at the Van Loan Preserve bridge, which is a priority and

quite large - over 20 feet. The Land Trust monitors it and reported last year that the span at Van Loan has no support in the middle, has a railing on only one side, and the wood is rotting. It would be an excellent idea to look at Van Loan for this first for a material using this product, before we look at Pulpit Rock because those are smaller footbridges and we have a grant for that work.

Mr. Schneller sent Jeff Foote some information on the company. Ms. Evarts said if he doesn't mind the Conservation Commission doing some initial calls, research, and information gathering and it is not stepping on any toes, they would be happy to do it.

## VII. New Business

- a. Marc Hebert of Harbor Group will attend the November meeting
  1. Marc will bring Mark Weissflog, his solar installer, to discuss the financial rationale, and Mark will address any technical questions.
- b. Municipal Aggregation

Chairman Kerr indicated Marc Hebert of Harbor Group (to address the technical stuff) and Mark Weissflog his solar installer (to address the financial stuff) will be our guests next month.

Ms. Braese asked if the commission is deciding to make a recommendation on municipal aggregation. Chairman Kerr agreed that if it is going to be on the March warrant we should discuss it. He asked commission members for their opinion.

Mr. Schneller asked Bart Fromuth what the downside was – and he asked if the town residents would be stuck with a bill for any reason if something were to happen. Mr. Fromuth said no. Chairman Kerr said there is really straightforward, if worse came to worse the whole thing could be dissolved and you go back to the default that you were at before, so there is no downside to doing it. Chairman Kerr suggested that we work to put together language for Town Meeting next year. Template language from Clean Energy New Hampshire or Freedom Energy is being worked on so we could use that once it is ready. What would need to be voted on is: How you start it, how you run it, end it and how you merge it with another town. We could use the savings each month and place it in a fund that could finance other things (such as hiring a different company to get us better rates, placing smart meters in all customer homes so we could do time-of-use billing residents, for example). Once we start saving some money, we come up with a plan on who would manage and oversee the trust, etc.

Ms. Rombeau is trying to put her finger on how to get it on the ballot this year with all the education that would be needed. Mr. Bandazian said it would not be a good idea to put it on the ballot too soon without having people fully understand it (similar to what happened with the School Energy Project which offered an \$0.08 tax discount but was shot down because it wasn't marketed to the residents so they could understand it). Chairman Kerr said it needs to be simple and easy to understand, and then we need to market it. Ms. Braese noted that the City of Lebanon is working on it, so they could be used as an example. The Energy Commission would just be responsible for presenting it to the Town Council and getting the Town Council to hopefully recommend it. Chairman Kerr said that both Clean Energy and Freedom Energy seem to think the Energy Commission should serve as the entity/organization to be the agent/in-house entity in charge of that. Chairman Kerr feels we could get the language together for the warrant article and get it passed and not even do anything the first year but gather data and figure out the best thing to do. We do not have to start on things right away. Chairman Kerr prefers that we get the language for

the warrant article from Clean Energy New Hampshire since we are a member and have already paid dues, rather than using any one single company (as Mr. Schneller had suggested) – in order to be remain more neutral.

Mr. Bandazian shared that the Energy Solutions Conference is coming up. There are 4 tracks and those attending should fan out to get the most we can out of the program as possible. We should have conversation in advance about which tracks we would like to attend. There are currently 7 of us attending. He will place it on the Google Group so we can tally responses on what track people would like to attend.

Mr. Bandazian also discussed the bike and pedestrian statewide plan they would like to receive public input on. The website is: [NHpedbikeplan.com](http://NHpedbikeplan.com) has a questionnaire and survey talking about biking on State roads. There is a map and survey where people can say where they think biking is good and where it is dangerous. Mr. Bandazian stated they would like to create new or improved bicycle and pedestrian connections across the Merrimack River and creation of a parking management plan for downtown and the mill yard.

VIII. Reminders: Next upcoming meeting is November 21, 2019

IX. Adjournment

**MOTION to adjourn by Mr. Bandazian at 8:40 P.M. Seconded by Mr. Schneller. Vote taken- Motion Passed.**

Respectfully submitted by,

Tiffany Lewis