

Town of Candia Community Power Committee Approved Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: June 9, 2022
Location: Town Office Building

Attendees: Kevin Coughlin (Chairman)
Dick Snow
Beth Chalbeck
William Saffie (Vice Chairman)
Ryan Young
Brenda Coughlin (Secretary)

Chairman Coughlin opened the meeting at 6:30 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting was opened by Kevin Coughlin with requests for committee appointment nominations.
Brenda Coughlin motioned to nominate Kevin Coughlin as Chairman.
Beth Chalbeck seconds motion
Motion passes by a show of hands 5 – yes. 1-abstained

Kevin Coughlin motioned to nominate Brenda Coughlin as Secretary
Beth Chalbeck seconds motion
Motion passes by show of hands unanimously

Brenda Coughlin motions to nominate William Saffie as Vice Chairman
Kevin Coughlin seconds motion
Motion passes by show of hands unanimously

Kevin Coughlin asked newly formed committee members to briefly introduce themselves and shared some recent background; he saw the town posted need for a Community Power Committee and reached out to Al Couch. He was tasked with putting together a small group of interested Candia residents. Kevin brought this committee mission and vision to the Board of Selectman for approval which was received unanimously. The committee web page was created and consists of six residents of Candia, all sworn in by Town Clerk before the first meeting. Kevin thanked members for their interest and willingness to donate their time.

Ryan Young is a member and sits on the Conservation Committee

Brenda Coughlin is a member of the Budget Committee

Beth Chalbeck is a Cemetery Trustee

Dick Snow is a very busy community member and sits on so many committees, he could not name them all! You can find all of Dick's town committee involvement on the town website.

William Saffie was not present for introductions

Kevin read the mission statement to the committee.

Standard Power representatives were invited to join meeting and introduce themselves and company to committee. Ryan Polson opened presentation explaining company is an energy consultant out of Nashua and they have been the town energy consultants for several years helping the town save on their energy costs and Candia has been a member of their group net metering program which provides a financial benefit from Standard Powers hydro assets they work with. Ryan is well known with the energy committee mtgs over the last few years and the idea of a community power program was identified for possible benefit to the town residents.

Bob Hayden, President of Standard Power explained their role is to provide electricity at lower costs and to include renewable energy at lower costs still. Their mission is to successfully deliver electricity which includes more renewables than the utilities and competitors at lower costs than market or competitors who provide 3rd party brokering.

Emily Manns basically is the core organizer providing materials works with committee to assess community needs and wants, assists the committee in communicating with community.

Bob Hayden and team provided some early history with a lengthy discussion including the essential benefit of community power is to get a high participation and group with other towns for buying power for better electricity rates. In 2019 the PUC was approached by Standard Power on behalf of the town of Peterborough, but the PUC felt they weren't ready for a program such as this, and there was a law that supported this effort. The suppliers felt the law didn't work and weren't interested in getting involved. In 2020 a law was put forth as a utility sponsored kill bill. This bill would eliminate the community power opportunity. In 2021 this bill was worked on and turned into a unique thing in the NH Legislature. Republicans, Democrats, suppliers, brokers, etc. worked together and all agreed how to move forward. This group created the modified HB15 which Governor Sununu signed into law on August 26, 2021. This law was to come effective within 60 days; however, the Department of Energy and the PUC were split making progress very slow for this bill to take place with all the staff changes. Just very recently it was announced the rules were ready and a vote would take place July 5, 2022. The rules created are a great starting point and hopefully will result in a positive vote. As a review, the legislative piece is done, there is a written law, now there is the step for the rules under the law must be written by the PUC. We are at this point. Massachusetts has been doing this successfully for the past 10 years, Rhode Island is about to launch theirs, Indiana and several other states do it in a similar way as us in a set of rules to work within. California has switched up some things showing successes and failures. The PUC sets rates every six months.

Emily Manns shared community power programs are popular for two main reasons:

1. Cost savings
2. Renewable energy

A question was raised by Kevin Coughlin who is the frequent company listed on the handouts as Good Energy? Essentially Standard Power works with them as co brokers for best rates. Good Energy is larger with more resources and collectively it makes a perfect match together.

Kevin Coughlin asked since Eversource is nearly statewide they have a wide customer base as compared to smaller communities going to buy electricity. How can you get a better rate than Eversource if its volume based? Primarily utilities are legislated to buy power at the worst time of the year such as they buy power in December effective for February, and then again in July for an August rate start. They are held to a very specific set of rules. The electricity they buy they do not profit at all; it is a pass-through price. They do profit from transmission and distribution, and they make a 10% profit on every dollar they spend. The fact that they buy at the wrong times is virtually irrelevant to them.

Ryan Young asked why do those rules not apply to Standard Power and is there a time when they could be you get to a certain size? Bob Hayden shared that everyone has a set of rules to follow, they are a broker that uses third party suppliers like the utilities do however they are not encumbered by date or term. This means they can buy anytime of the year and serve customers with terms that may vary. He shared an example of a farm he recently sold a 31-month term to as a great deal. Utilities must buy on a certain range of two days, twice a year for six months. This is because they are a regulated utility.

Emily Manns emphasized that community power only deals with the supply portion of your electricity bill. Transmission, distribution and emergency services all stays with the utility company and community power does not change that at all. As example when the lights go out your utility company still responds in the manner it calls for.

William Saffie asked would Eversource's delivery rate change by going with Standard Power. Most of the cost as we know for electricity is in the transmission. The utilities profit margin cost is regulated by the utility.

There are no contracts with an individual with Standard Power, they can decide to drop out any time. Standard Power's job is to deliver what the community desires. If they want the cheapest power, we get the rate, if they want a greener power, then again, we will have that as an option to

select. How it works is someone designated in the town signs a term contract, but any individual can come and go in the plan.

Kevin Coughlin asked for clarification of potential savings by going community power. If his bill is \$120.00 in supply, could it be a 10% reduction? Bob Hayden explained if you paid a dime, you'd likely pay eight cents. It's not a ton of savings maybe 10% of the total bill, 20% over the supply itself.

Emily Manns said the key element of the plan is the default rate. Because this is an opt out program most of the residents will be automatically enrolled in a default rate unless they choose another product or opt out. So, the committee will choose a default product and then some optional products. They will survey the community for their interests. Standard Power offers a timeline to accomplish all necessary steps prior to taking the concept/idea to your community. Discussion ensued, listen to audio for continued detail.

Discussion among committee members was to contact Eversource to see if they had a similar program and if so, invite them to present on June 20, 2022, at 6:30 pm. If they do not then we will meet at next scheduled meeting on July 14, 2022 @ 6:30 pm

With there being no further business,
Beth Chalbeck motioned to adjourn
Ryan Young seconds motion
Meeting was adjourned at 8:51 pm

Submitted by: Brenda Coughlin, Secretary