

# Town of Candia Community Power Committee Approved Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:** July 14, 2022  
**Location:** Town Office Building

**Attendees:** Kevin Coughlin (Chairman)  
Dick Snow  
Beth Chalbeck  
William Saffie (Vice Chairman)  
Ryan Young (Present via Zoom @ 7pm)  
Brenda Coughlin (Secretary)

Chairman Coughlin opened the meeting at 6:30 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

## **Approval of Minutes from June 9, 2022**

Reviewed minutes, request made on 2<sup>nd</sup> page to correct grammar of sentence related to PUC.

Dick Snow motioned to approved amended minutes

William Saffie seconds motion

Motion passes 5 (Kevin Coughlin, William Saffie, Brenda Coughlin, Beth Chalbeck, Dick Snow)

Approve: 5 Opposed: 0. Absent for vote Ryan Young

## **Old Business/New Business**

Kevin Coughlin opened discussion sharing that inviting Standard Power (SP) to our first committee meeting may have been premature (cart before the horse), and though SP provided a comprehensive education, several members felt SP may have misunderstood the meeting invitation was the committee acknowledgement of the selected aggregator. As a review among the committee, we are charged to provide the town of Candia residents a power solution that may provide lower costs and potentially higher renewable options, while residents can OPT out without penalty or contract constraints. SP does offer just that, and Dick Snow presented the committee with an excellent resource article related to the concept of community power. Eversource is not able to provide the same aggregating service because the power rate they purchase and subsequently offer customers is the lowest rate they can get.

Dick Snow submitted to the group information for Title 3 Towns, Cities, Villages, Districts and incorporate places, Chapter 53-E Aggregation of Electro Customers by Municipalities and Counties, Sec 53-E,6.

Dick explained this is the committees charge at the present time, what we must accomplish within a timeline with the assistance of an aggregator such as SP. The process is extremely time consuming for us to do on our own. Companies such as SP will provide the tools for a program to be created and proposed to the residents of Candia using electricity to get a lower rate for the power supplied via Eversource delivery. Companies such as SP will provide guidance as to what they have done with other communities and recommendations as to what we should do in our program. Dick suggested we reach out to Deerfield as they have used SP in their program, and have someone from that town come to a meeting to discuss their experience and outcome with SP. We will need to have a paper to submit our procedure to PUC to let them know we

will become a municipality rate aggregator for residents in Candia including plan for those who are receiving energy discount assistance.

Dave Creer Eversource Community Liaison, audience attendee clarified from a legal standpoint the town will become the aggregator and whichever Broker we decide to contract with will become the supplier of the electricity delivered by Eversource. A question was raised by Mark Chalbeck, community attendee, because we have two utilities in the town of Candia, Eversource and NH Coop. Will two separate contracts be needed? This is an important question to clarify during the process development. Refer to audio for more detail. Dave reiterated with all the changes from the newly created Department of Energy & staff shortage has held up that department to finalize the rules which will need to be incorporated into final contracts so the PUC will ensure the rate payers have protection in these programs. This is still ongoing.

Beth Chalbeck added as a review from the SP meeting, Eversource is mandated to buy their rates in Dec & July. These are known to be the worst times to buy in winter & summer however a Broker can buy anytime of the year during the best purchasing times such as spring and fall. Therefore, a Broker can buy a cheaper rate than a public utility company.

Brenda Coughlin raised a discussion clarifying the final contract the Broker presents to the town, someone such as the Board of Selectman will commit to the terms of the contract but the residents in town have no obligation to the contract they just benefit from the rate and have the freedom to opt in and out of the program at their individual discretion. Discussion ensued,

Kevin Coughlin opened the discussion in the spirit of due diligence, though it is easiest right now to just go with SP, we do need to go out to the market to assess potential Brokers. We owe the residents of Candia to do this.

Dick Snow suggested we begin to focus on a timeline. SP wants a residential survey completed ASAP however it is most important to communicate/educate our community what we are trying to do on their behalf. Dick proposes we decide with how to communicate to the public what we are trying to do. Do we start with the Candia Community Awareness group?

Kevin Coughlin said he will reach out to the obvious NH Brokers to assess their interest in working with us. He will provide feedback at next meeting or invite a potential Broker. We need to have a good understanding from a current customer as to how the process worked/is working for them. SP said they were working with Deerfield. He will reach out to Ryan Polson for towns they are working with.

Bill Saffie said he will reach out to Keene NH to get a better understanding of SP service.

Ryan Young asked does the opt out program require a warrant article in March? Agreement for further clarification needed. He also pointed out the graph submitted from SP is a marketing tool and moving the start/end on either end would show something quite different.

Mark Chalbeck suggested to investigate what happens if more residents opt out, will the town be liable for the agreed amount which would push the warrant article? Discussion regarding SP's explanation, (which sounds too good to be true in this current economic environment) was there is no liability to the town.

Ryan Young asked should we determine a number which would be considered “due diligence” as we seek out Brokers? Kevin will reach out to the ten that are listed within NH and see who would be appropriate to invite and present to the committee.

General discussion for consideration regarding possible booth at Old Home Day, how to reach out to educate community our mission. Reach out to potential Brokers, determine who should attend next meeting? Follow up with Ryan Polson for towns they are working with. Place an update on Candia Community Awareness. Post same announcement on the Community Power website.

Next Meeting is August 11 @ 6:30

With there being no further business,

Dick Snow motioned to adjourn

William Saffie seconds motion

Motion Approved 6 (William Saffie, Kevin Coughlin, Brenda Coughlin, Beth Chalbeck, Ryan Young, Dick Snow)

Meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm

Submitted by: Brenda Coughlin, Secretary