

Candia Recycling & Energy Committee
Public Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2021

Attendance:

Committee members: Russ Dann and Al Couch.

Janet Lewis also attended to learn about the committee and what they do.

To inform Janet about what the committee does, Al and Russ reviewed many of the projects and tasks the committee has done in the past, and what they are currently working on. They also reviewed the general goals of the committee.

Al gave updates on the LED conversion project that Affinity LED is doing. The street light project is now complete. The committee has asked Affinity to review and assess other town owned lights so they can give us additional quotes. Future conversion of the other lights at the town office, and the areas around the town office will be considered in the future.

After doing the initial assessment of other lights, Affinity said the lights could not all be clearly identified, and they are working with Eversource to try to identify them, so they can clarify who owns the poles, the light fixtures, and what the cost is to power them. As in all towns, Affinity says some of the pole lights are "PAL" lights, ("Private Area Lights") that have been installed at the request of a homeowner or some organization other than the town. One of Affinity's tasks is to clearly identify every light in town and to determine whether they are town lights or PAL lights.

Community Power: Standard Power, who is the town's energy supplier, currently uses a number of sources to buy energy at a lower rate, much of it renewable energy such as hydro power and solar. They made a presentation to the committee a couple of months ago to propose that we consider using their new program called Community Power. The program sets up a municipality to pool the energy of its residents and small businesses together, which creates substantial buying power that it can use to leverage the purchase of electricity at a competitive rate. The program also seeks to use local renewable energy and supports energy efficiency. Discussion took place on how to move forward on this program.

The Community Power program would need to be presented to the Board, and also would likely require a warrant article to be voted on at Town Meeting. Also, the program requires a Community Power Committee to be formed. It was decided that we should start by posting on the town's Facebook page and on the town website that we are looking for residents interested in forming a Community Power committee. If there are people interested, the Recycling & Energy committee would work with the Community Power Committee to help the program move forward.

As the regular meeting date for November would be Thanksgiving Day, that meeting will be cancelled. The next meeting will be Thursday, December 23, at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Al Couch, Recycling & Energy Committee Member