

ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
March 2, 2023

Meeting called to order, 7:03 pm.

Attending: Andrea Chasen, Minoo Tehrani, Liz Bone, David Miller, Michael Massie.

Guest: Mark Gold, Ulrike Nagel, Dan Zwirko, Corrin Meissen-Munns

1. **Opening of Meeting**: Andrea read the rules allowing for public meetings to continue to be held by zoom, pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021.

2. **Discussion of Minutes**

January 13 Minutes: Minutes: Motion to accept the minutes by Andrea, seconded by Dave Miller. Roll call vote: All in favor.

3. **Municipal Aggregation presented by Mark Gold:**

Electric bills have 2 parts, the electricity supply and the delivery charge. "MA" would allow towns to buy the electricity themselves and charge the residents. 6-10 municipalities do it now. A little complicated for towns to adopt but can be done. (Must go to town meeting, the DPU is backlogged, town must ask residents if they want to buy from the town instead of Eversource.) Towns can develop rate case for renewable energy and have longer contracts than Eversource who goes to bid twice a year. The town of Reading did it.

Q- David- What incentive for homeowners? Residents can opt in and out, town can pick the supply. Ex. 90% from renewables.

Q- Michael- Does the town generate revenue? Costs? Taxes? No, cost or taxes. We can generate income but would complicate the process.

Q- Minoo- Do you mean store solar energy and give it to town? No, Mark says the electricity can come from any source. Solar, water, coal, etc.

Do you store it with lithium batteries? No, it would connect to grid if the town actually had solar fields.

Q- Andrea- Go to town meeting as a resolution? Yes

Q- David- How much are these towns paying? Some as low as 50% of the costs. Worth doing it.

Please send information to our committee about the towns that have done it.

Q-Dan- who in town would implement it? A new position? DPW? Mark says town depts should be able to handle it. If 100 residents sign up, would it affect the other residents? No because the supply is on the free market anyway.

#### 4. Presenter Uliy Nagel: Cooler Communities:

Program working with schools and teachers to promote and encourage to work on climate solutions and to focus on town issues. Projects are shown to community in an event setting and ask viewers to take a pledge to focus on climate change. Looking to start in 2024. \$5000 grant for the schools.

K-12. Uliy will send the link. [www.coolercommunities.org](http://www.coolercommunities.org)

Q-Andrea- Have you been in touch with the schools? Not yet.

Q- Corrin- Would love to chat more about the MVP grant with the schools that Corrin is involved with. What's the grant source? Grinspoon Foundation majority. Keep Corrin in the loop.

Q- Minoo- is it voluntary community service? They just encourage the schools to do more than they normally would with the climate curriculum and rely on the teacher to lead and stimulate a different kind of thinking in the community. Studies say parents change their mindset if their kids introduce it to them. Continue to brainstorm with Andrea and Corrin and come back to the committee.

#### 5. Mission and Vision Statement:

Minoo worked on this for the committee. Andrea to make a motion to present to SB for input and approval. Liz seconded the motion. All in favor.

#### 6. Project Yes:

Lawn signs are at printers, letters went out in the mail to all residents and Homework has gotten about 20 new sign-ups for audits. Website and FB page is live.

#### 7. Earth Day:

April 1st. Sign up online and information is on the towns website under Earth Day page.

8. Other business: Corrin- Contracted with the Conway school to design Cooley Brook project (April-June), within the parks to restore and revitalize. Town advisers will be working with students and one spot open for a resident. Can apply on town website.

Minoo- Green Cities conference in June. We can sign up to speak about our town if we want to. Will gather thoughts.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm, motion by Minoo, seconded by David, all in favor roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bone, Clerk