



CITY OF PORTSMOUTH NH
Portsmouth Energy Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, November 9, 2022 at 6:30 pm

Attending: Councilor John Tabor, Chair; Councilor Kate Cook, Kevin Charette, Ben D'Antonio, Peter Somssich.
Absent: Allison Tanner, Tom Rooney. Ex-Officio Staff: Peter Britz, Peter Rice
Recording secretary: Stephanie Seacord, PIO

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

- I. **Introductory Remarks and Electric Aggregation Plan (EAP)** Status – The draft Portsmouth Community Power (PCP) EAP in the Meeting Packet now includes Goals, Appendix 8 and Appendix.

If there are no additional comments, the red-lined EAP is now ready for review by CPCNH and parallel review by the City's Legal Department.

Next, the PCP will share the EAP with City Council in December and then hold public hearings, as planned, in January.

- II. **Community Survey** – Fine-tuned the language in the survey: <https://us2.list-manage.com/survey?u=09a251212294eb25c93966499&id=a92ccc5d11&attribution=false>

Now preparing a **postcard** that will include the QR code and URL link to the survey. Collecting three bids for printing and mailing: Southport Printing does postcard mailing for Stormwater outreach. Councilor Tabor also provided details from IQuotient (linked to SMG) and is collecting information from Eastern Marketing Group.

Committee reviewed draft language and agreed the image on the front should be the Community Power Benefits, with both the City Seal and the CPCNH logo along with the PEAC and CPCNH websites. Committee discussed whether a phone number is possible but the issue is it would need to be staffed with a PEAC member who could answer detailed questions. Questions could be directed to a newly-created PEAC@cityofportsmouth.com

- III. **Publicity and Engagement** – Publicity for NH Saves “ButtonUp” workshop on Nov 3. Councilor Tabor planning an op-ed introducing the Community Survey, which will also be announced with a press release and City communications channels including the City Newsletter.

Article in *NH Business Review* on community power. Clr Cook also reported that the Chamber is willing to send an eblast to its members about the survey. She also reported that Judie Gilman in Exeter is willing to contribute to an op-ed and that she had met with the Sustainability Committee to enlist their support.

Discussed adding more background information to the PEAC webpage.

For the public hearings, PEAC will ask Henry Herndon to make a presentation by CPCNH. Location of the hearings probably Council Chamber. Goal is that when the public is notified that CPCNH is the default supplier, the news is not a surprise.

- IV. **Risk Management Policy CPCNH** – Kevin, who is on the CPCNH board's Risk Management Committee reported that Ascend is working to develop procurement policies including risk management process, financial reserves generated by rate and rate-setting. Legal review is scheduled for next month so the

CPCNH Board can review in Dec. Clr Tabor noted the parameters for risk are consistent with the CPCNH brief.

Councilor Cook observed that once the policies are adopted the communities will have no room to negotiate and suggested it would be good for Portsmouth's legal team to review the template and specific language to highlight any concerns they might have. Kevin noted there has not been discussion on soliciting towns' legal approval and it could be difficult to manage multiple legal opinions. CPCNH is supported by the DC legal firm of Duncan, Weinberg, Genzer and Pembroke.

V. **Cost Sharing Plan** – CPCNH startup costs will be allocated to the participating communities for the period before revenues are being generated. Then there will be slivers in the rate for shared services. Communities pay nothing upfront. Charges will be allocated based on load. CPCNH is hiring independent auditing and accounting firms who will set up the process to administer the program.

VI. **Net Metering** – Ben made a short presentation (slides:
https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2022-11/PEAC_NetMetering_9Nov2022.pdf

Committee agreed to invite Clifton Below, CPCNH chair for a brief overview at a future PCP meeting.

VII. **Timeline Review** – One item remained from September: Kevin noted that the City should now request updated load data from Eversource to complete that section of the EAP. Peter Britz informed. Ben also offered to assist, if needed. Timeline as of November 9:
<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2022-11/PEAC%20Timeline%202022.11.09.pdf>

VIII. **Public Comment** – no members of the public participating.

IX. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm