



**CITY OF PORTSMOUTH NH**  
**MEETING NOTES**  
**Portsmouth Energy Advisory Committee**  
**Wednesday, January 18, 2023**

1. Roll call – In person: Councilor John Tabor, chair; Council Kate Cook, Kevin Charette, Ben D’Antonio, Allison Tanner, Peter Rice, Peter Britz, Stephanie Seacord, recording secretary. By zoom: Samuel Golding. Absent: Tom Rooney, Peter Somssich.
2. Update on CPCNH launch windows - Committee and Samuel Golding of CPCNH

CPCNH advice, based on the historical patterns of seasonal rates, suggests that Fall is not a good time to launch a Community Power Aggregate, especially in Year One, because:

- a. The consumer would not benefit as much from the rate, which would be counterproductive to encouraging others to support Portsmouth Community Power and its other benefits.
- b. the new CPA (i.e. Portsmouth) would not be able to contribute to CPCPNH reserves. In fact, the delta between the rates might cause Portsmouth to need to draw on those reserves in order to meet its promised goal of a consumer rate lower than the Eversource.
- c. CPCNH early startup fixed costs would be borne by a smaller number of members

Benefits:

- a. Apr-Jun is the strongest time to launch to earn the benefits of Community Power
- b. Portsmouth contributes to the reserves
- c. Portsmouth consumers get 10 months of savings they would not realize if Portsmouth launches in spring 2024.

Per Sam Golding, lead technical consultant for Ascend: Portsmouth could do June, or take the most conservative course and wait until Spring 2024.

3. Discussion

Kevin noted the timeline for a go-live in June is not really more aggressive than PEAC is already pursuing in preparing the EAP for review by the PUC in February. Although that is taking the 60 days allowed per the law, the timing could still allow for a June launch.

Q. How would Portsmouth’s ‘go-live’ in June – with a 2 months’ shorter window to contribute to reserves -- impact CPCNH cash flow?

A. There would be an impact, but still allow Portsmouth to contribute to the reserves between June and October.

Ben commented that the Eversource rate pattern is a proxy for CPCNH and actual portfolio risk management must look at variable costs guided by daily alerts and monthly actuals.

We will know what the Aug rate reset will be by July to judge if PCP rates are still better than Eversource. PEAC will also still have 2 months to observe the ‘wave 1’ experience with customer service, billing, etc.

Allison expressed concern that the accelerated timetable might not be enough for sufficient public awareness and might open the city to accusations of ‘trying to pull something over.’ Peter agreed that a perception that the City was forcing something could have a material impact on PCP’s success.

Kevin noted that PCP will receive the advantage of CPCNH outreach and publicity on behalf of the ‘wave 1’ group. And that it would also be advantageous to build on the public education and community engagement momentum that is building now, instead of suspending progress for a year. Need to focus on all the right reasons: green energy and stability not only lower rates.

Chairman Tabor suggested that PEAC proceed with preparing the EAP for PUC and parallel Council review. The only change is the public hearings need to move to Feb 2 and the Feb 9 to be included in the EAP which must go to the PUC by Feb 10.

The Chair asked each member what s/he thought and there was a clear majority to launch in June. After further discussion there was full agreement to proceed with readying the EAP, watch the April wave 1 experience and see what the rates look like for a June launch.

4. Public Comment – None.

Adjourned at 6:10 pm.