

To: Portsmouth Energy Advisory Committee

From: John Tabor, Chair

Re: Update on December activity

12/9/22

Colleagues,

Here is an update and look-ahead for our committee's work. Please don't reply all to save discussion for public session at our January meeting currently planned for **January 5, 2023**.

CPCNH update: According to Kevin Charette, focus is on finalizing for Board vote on December 15 the energy portfolio risk management, rate setting, financial reserves and cost sharing policy documents which will guide the coalition's activities. The CEO search is in the preliminary stages with the executive search firm TrueSearch. The goal is to have a CEO in place late March. The contract with Calpine to provide billing, customer service and utility interface is signed and they are at work. The contract with Ascend Analytics for portfolio management is nearly done and Ascend is contracting for bulk purchasing through an agent. Ascend is also updating all the revenue models in the business plan. Also, a contract for community engagement work is nearing completion with Clean Energy New Hampshire. The Coalition has \$750,000 startup capital from Calpine.

Discussions are underway for Concord to join the Coalition.

Survey: The city's purchasing department is getting three vendor quotes to send out the postcard. The design, which drives users to the online survey through a URL and QR code, is in the last meeting packet. In discussion amongst our working group, we propose to you that the survey go out mid-January with a note to those completing it to learn more at public hearings February 9 and March 2. A newspaper op-ed will preview the survey to the community.

Logo: We have two designs for a logo – one from CPCNH based on the city seal with a ship and railroad, and one from our own Allison Tanner with the North Church steeple against a shining sun. We'll pick one at our January meeting.

Branding: Current thinking on our web presence is to create a Portsmouth Community Power page on the city website that is a short description and benefit statement, but also keep an in-depth page for the Energy Advisory Committee's documents, meetings/minutes, and FAQs, and cross link the pages. PEAC remains the implementing governmental body until the program is launched.

Energy Aggregation Plan: The draft plan is ready to move to CPCNH review and city legal review unless members have changes to improve it, however we still await load data.

Community Engagement: I spoke to the PHS Eco Club who would like a speaker from PEAC. Last night's working group also recommended the Chamber email blast should be in advance of the survey, and suggested a speaker at Portsmouth Rotary.

Meeting Schedule 2023 – January to June. Second Thursday of each month: February's meeting will be the public hearing Feb 9, followed by March 9, April 13, May 11 and June 8.

Best of the holidays to everyone. If all goes well, you can light up your house next year with Portsmouth Community Power electricity!