



**CITY OF PORTSMOUTH NH**  
**MEETING NOTES**  
**Portsmouth Energy Advisory Committee Meeting & Public Hearing**  
**Thursday, February 9, 2023**

1. Public Hearing, Energy Aggregation Plan – Can be viewed at:  
<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/sites/default/files/2023-01/DRAFT%20EAP%202023.01.27.pdf>

Councilor Tabor outlined the schedule needed, per RSA 53, to move ahead with the Portsmouth Community Power program

- a. Public Hearings on February 2 and 9.
- b. Draft EAP to Public Utilities Commission on February 10 (for response in 60 days)
- c. City Council Work Session on February 13.
- d. City Council vote on Energy Aggregation Plan on February 21.
- e. City Council vote on Cost-Sharing and Rate-Setting agreements on Mar 20.

Councilor Tabor introduced the session noting that Portsmouth residents are paying a lot for electricity and that much of that energy comes from fossil fuels. Portsmouth Energy Advisory Committee (PEAC) was established by the City Council to use the RSA that permits municipalities to pursue community power programs to aggregate the electricity demand of residents and businesses to enter the power markets to obtain more competitive rates and more ‘green’ supplies of energy. There are now 28 towns who are members of the Coalition for Community Power of NH (CPCNH).

We expect to see substantial benefits over time and a 5-7% decrease in the short-term rate. Portsmouth Community Power expects lower rates because the regulators require that Eversource must accept the available market rate at two set dates, while power portfolio management by CPCNH allows us to purchase short-term and long-term rate inventory that can be used to stabilize rates and flatten spikes.

The PEAC survey in January showed that while residents are interested in green power, only 20 percent are taking advantage of third-party supplier alternatives because they’ve found it too cumbersome to do so.

Finally, Portsmouth Community Power holds the promise of driving innovation and the creation of local power source projects because CPCNH will build reserves from the energy payments made by customers in excess of the actual power sold. Those profits now go to Eversource, without local control of their use.

Portsmouth Community Power is an opt-out program so that CPCNH can leverage the buying power of all members when purchasing power. But customers can opt-out at any time, without penalty. A month in advance of going live, Eversource customers will receive a letter notifying them of the change in ‘default supplier’ and how to opt-out. That notice will also include the comparison of the CPCNH electric rate and the Eversource default rate. Eversource will continue to maintain the electric infrastructure – poles, wires,

transmitters – service to the network, repairs to outages and will continue to bill customers as it does now for those “delivery services.”

2. Presentation - Community Power program for Portsmouth, Henry Herndon [see presentation]
  - a. 28 members now in CPCNH
  - b. 8-10 towns are expected to go live this spring including Exeter, Rye and Nashua
  - c. 12 total in 2023 including Portsmouth; 15 in 2024
  - d. CPCNH operating on members’ behalf includes experienced governance and technical operations experts
3. Community survey data - Allison Tanner [see presentation]
4. Public Hearing – Comments:

[Unnamed resident] I tried a third-party but the teaser entry rates ended up being higher. It’s hard to choose on your own. Many people want the alternative but hesitate to act. Hard for an individual to shop the market.

John Ragnise, 74 Cabot St. spent 40 years in the wholesale renewables industry. Like the portfolio of different products. Approve of the City action to establish Portsmouth Community power and obligate the purchasing power.

Petra Huda, South Street

- a. City Council contracts for services – only launch if the rates are lower than the comparable default?
- b. Program is self-funded, no tax dollars – what about City staff time?
- c. EAP – who monitors the managers, reserves?
  - a. Program implementation costs are recovered from startup reserves – when/who determines?
  - b. What is the term of the resident contract?
  - c. “Default” is base? Portsmouth will launch with a rate equal to or lower than Eversource
  - d. Long term funding of other programs? City Council will decide
  - e. After launch – only choices are PCP and Eversource? Third-party still an option
  - f. Customer data – who manages the adjustment on non-collect accounts? Pooled liability?
  - g. Member cost-sharing – what is impact if Portsmouth withdraws?
  - h. Customer confidentiality – has legal reviewed? Also City CIO?

Andrea Amico. 187 Grant -- I fully support PCP – anything that reduces high energy costs and gives community control over where renewables and projects are located. Would like to see the rate options in sample bills for the different plans. Also recommend the notices on opting out go in mail and email.

Logan Roy 233 Portsmouth Ave. -- Support PCP and EAP. Interest others in the ability to invest in renewables.

On a motion by Allison Tanner seconded by Peter Somssich, PEAC voted to submit the Portsmouth EAP to PUC on February 10, 2023, starting the 60 day approval window. Vote by City Council on Feb 21, 2023. Vote by City Council to accept governance documents on Mar 20, 2023. The day after the PUC approves the Portsmouth EAP, CNCNH will start procuring power on Portsmouth’s behalf. Adjourned at 7:35 pm on a motion by Allison Tanner seconded by Tom Rooney.