

Newbury Energy Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday March 18, 2024 4pm

In Person: ~~Town Offices~~ Veterans' Hall

Attendees: Quorum **Yes**/No Attendees are in **bold**

Andrew Cockerill – by phone	Sue Kelley	Kate Sample
Lisa Correa - Chair	Joy Nowell	Dan Wolf
Mary Fuller	Steve Remen	Tracy Wood

1. Call to Order, check in, agenda review. 4:01pm Chair

2. Approval of [February minutes](#). Chair

Approved as amended to reflect brief discussion on Solar Farms.

3. Old Business

- a. Update on Community Power timeline and next steps Mary
The warrant article adopting the Newbury Community Power Plan and authorizing the Selectboard to develop and implement Community Power passed at town meeting (3-13-24). Per Bob Hayden of Standard Power, our community power broker, the next steps are between Standard Power and the town. Mary will ensure Diane and/or her designee for this know that they can consult with Newbury Energy as needed.

4. New Business

- a. Planning for 2024: All
- i. Community Power roll out, *in progress*.
 - ii. Website: migration to new platform: *Kate described the selection of and migration to SquareSpace for ease of maintenance/updates. Jess in town offices has been notified. Annual charge will be \$192 per year which includes hosting platform and tools. \$20 additional per year for domain name. Significant savings realized as Kate did the technical work to replicate our site and migrate content herself rather than hiring a consultant. Pending committee members review of new platform later this week, the committee approved moving to SquareSpace. Further discussion of what we want out of the website planned for future meetings. Update: via email members confirmed positive review of the new website. Migration to SquareSpace approved.*
 - iii. Old Home Day, Tracy will work with Pam to schedule the NH Energy Education Project (NHEEP) to do an interactive program. Previous event sponsored by LSPA was excellent.
 - iv. Fall: succession planning
 - v. *Fall: Window Dresser insulating window inserts; Newbury Energy members plan to*

volunteer again this fall. Ask KCA if outreach can begin soon so residents are aware the program will be coming. Discussion on how we can publicize this program to Newbury residents.

- b. Newbury Solar Array, communication re: impact Andrew

We now have over a year of operation of the WWTP solar array. Mary and Andrew recently met with Jess at the town office to review performance and reconcile PPA billings, Eversource credits, and cost/benefit allocation between the Town and the Blodgett sewer accounts.

Key points:

- The cost allocation process is complicated by the fact that the Revision and Eversource monthly billing periods differ, however we now have a way to reconcile these.
- The solar array performed well and in line with the design specification although a cloudy summer reduced overall output.
- On average the WWTP uses around 20% of the generated solar power behind the meter
- It is worth noting that the WWTP power consumption rose significantly in 2023 due to water ingress into the sewer collection line along Bowles road.
- Early years cost savings are very modest (around \$1000 to \$2000 p.a. This is in line with our projections)
- We need to develop a simple way to communicate performance to residents, particularly those on the Blodgett sewer who are now seeing higher costs due to the sewer line failures.

Discussion re: whether we can make information about the output from the array more widely available (rather than just on our website) including a prominent spot on the town website and specific information on the financial impact to the town so far. Will develop a static monthly web page that shows array output year-to-date both in kWh, in equivalents and in savings to Newbury. Andrew will follow up on a write up on the savings, financial impact. Kate and Sue will follow up on creating the monthly static page and on where we might display it.

- c. Website changes *Discussed as part of 2024 Planning (see above).* Kate, Sue

5. News/Info *None.*

6. Public Comment and Questions *None.*

7. Next meeting and frequency of future meetings: ~~April 15, 2024~~ TBD.

Third Monday conflicts with other meetings for several members. Discussion of potentially moving our monthly meeting to the third Tuesday. Lisa will poll members who did not weigh in on what works for them. Next meeting date/time to be arrived at via email and then posted to our website.

8. Meeting Review

Went well:

Could be better:

9. Summarize new actions and adjourn