

Atkinson Energy commission – 10/14/2020, 7pm as AMENDED

Attending Jim Garrity, Ellyn Murphy, Marie Torris, Michelle Veasey

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 and is being held electronically via Zoom. The meeting logistics have been posted on the Atkinson website and at the Town Hall. Those interested in attending can call 646-555-8656, or access via zoom.com Meeting code: 86222439859 Passcode: 598834

Marie moved that August 5<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes be accepted. Ellyn seconded. Motion to approve carried.

**LED Street lighting:** Jim confirmed with David Cressman that the LED street lighting needs to go out to bid once the item goes to Town Meeting and contingent upon approval. No word on stranded costs from Unitil.

**Action items:** Ellyn asked if we should move forward on creating a warrant for Town Meeting in March, 2021. Sample language from other towns. Jim will ask David Cressman for deadline for warrant. Committee to reach out to Affinity for language from other towns. Michelle to reach out to John B. for language. Jim will ask Henry Herndon from Clean Energy NH.

Marie noted that Plaistow has an Energy Capitol Reserve fund. Jim asked Marie to contact Plaistow what they did to secure funding – did they have to go to warrant.

**Town Lighting Policies:** Jim asked Clean Energy NH (CENH) for policy language from other towns. He also asked the Atkinson Police Chief if he would be willing to review any policy that we propose and found support. Jim shared a resource for Energy Efficiency Street lighting from Efficiency Vermont, which he found on CENH's website. Great example of lighting based on use Zones.

**Action item:** Jim will share document with the commission.

**Community Power:** Michelle shared updates from the Seacoast Community Power group. Towns from several Unitil towns shared where they were at in the Community Power process. Some have created Electric Aggregation Committees and have requested aggregated electricity usage. Several were like Atkinson, collecting information to bring back to their committees.

Michelle shared that in order to get started on this journey, Atkinson needs to go to the Selectmen to ask them to form an Electric Aggregation Committee (EAC). Other towns in the Seacoast have created these with members from the Energy Committees. We agreed that in Atkinson, given our members all work full-time that we would need to have additional committee members. Ellyn suggested that a Selectman should also be on the committee.

Once the EAC is formed, the town can request aggregate electric use data by class and supplier from Unitil. Michelle share that Newmarket is trying to develop a simpler request form and mean to aggregate data, but she has not received their product. Presentations to the public and participation is contingent on the Town approving the structure in the March Town Meeting. Given that we are not far

along in the process, Michelle suggested that we should be targeting March, 2022, if we determine that we would like to participate.

Ellyn echoed complexity from her participation in earlier meetings, but also suggested that we give a high level presentation to the Board of Selectmen and ask for interested residents to reach out to the Energy Commission to learn more.

**Action item:** Michelle to get updates from CENH and Seacoast group before next meeting so that we can plan on presentation. Ellyn will collect graphics that might be helpful in the presentation.

**New business:**

- We have money left from our 2016 warrant article and the funds must be spent by December of 2021 or they return to general budget. (Note: we were very efficient with funds and were able to do far more projects than we initially budgeted for because of smart purchasing.) The Committee will research immediate energy needs of town departments. Options are Fire Department lighting, library lighting, etc.

Action item: Jim to check on remaining budget and Ellyn will check with the library. Michelle will reach out to Bill Inness to ask if Building Needs Committee has any small needs that meet the 3 yr payback requirement of the funds. Otherwise, the funds will revert.

- Ellyn brought up the Energy Commission's position on the Building Needs Committee (BNC). Michelle resigned from the BNC. Ellyn was the alternate and does not have time to participate. Jim suggested that we write a letter to the BNC thanking them for including the AEC, but that the AEC feels we can contribute more by sharing a standard for major renovations and new construction to meet energy efficiency standards. We will work on that language to share with the committee in early 2021. Michelle will reach out to Henry Herndon of Clean Energy NH for sample language. Marie suggested that we review BNC minutes and share thoughts if energy opportunities come up during meetings.

Next meeting is December 2, 2020.

Michelle moved to adjourn, Ellyn second. Motion passed at 8:19.