CHARLESTOWN COMMUNITY POWER MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M.

CHARLESTOWN COMMUNITY ROOM

Selectboard Present: Jeremy Wood (Selectboard Chair), Daniel Senie, John Lambert, Phil Turner, Trish Patrick.

Absent Committee Member: Brian Boardman & Paul Nickerson

Staff Present: Patricia Chaffee – minute taker

**Public Meeting Call to Order**

Mr. Wood commenced the meeting at 6:06 pm and welcomed those in attendance. Mr. Wood noted that the group would need to select a Chair and Vice Chair for the Committee, and Mrs. Patrick will serve as the Selectboard Ex-Officio. The Committee will need to take minutes. Mr. Wood remarked on the goals of the Committee, first to look at a way to do something with community power, this would help all residents and businesses, and then step two would be to look at additional ways to augment the energy costs for the Town itself.

The group was given information from Walpole that has most recently joined the Community Power Coalition of NH, as well as other brokers and possible solar options.

Mr. Lambert commented that he had spoken to Katherine in Bardford and the recently voted the Community Power option down in that town. It was noted that it might be beneficial to have her come and talk to the committee, possibly shedding some light on what the residents did not like, or were concerned about, etc.

Mr. Turner clarified that in a community power situation, the Town would be a load aggregator, this has advantages. There were questions about opting out of a plan, what about residents that have solar and arrangements with electrical suppliers. Mr. Senie noted that there would have to be a better power export rate than what people are currently getting or they would possibly opt out of a community power option. With community power you have the benefit of scale and better protections. Mr. Turner also talked about solar and possible group net metering and how might look for the Town.

Mr. Wood commented that all possibly energy options were on the table, such as wind, solar or other alternate energy. Mr. Senie noted that the Town of Hull, MA install one (1) wind turbine and was able to generate enough power to cover the town buildings and street lighting.

Mr. Wood reiterated that the group needed a chair and vice, Mr. Senie commented that since two of the members were not present that they could possibly do it at the next meeting. Votes should be taken by roll call vote and if needed Zoom can be set up for virtual attendance. Mr. Wood instructed them to be sure to not reply all when it comes to email conversations and to please send things to Ms. Chaffee and Ms. Grier at the Town office so they are in the loop. Meetings were set for the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month for at least the beginning as the group works on information gathering and meeting with other representatives.

Mr. Turner asked about having a flow chart creating a documented process. All agreed that this would be an integral part to help keep things moving in the direction set forth. Mr. Turner also commented on ISO and looking at the risk of suppliers and load aggregates in NH. It would make things easier if all states were to adopt the same laws and regulations, but without that it makes it difficult to work with other states.

Mrs. Patrick motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Mr. Wood seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

 Patricia Chaffee

John Lambert Trish Patrick Daniel Senie

Phil Turner Brian Boardman Paul Nickerson

(Note: these are unapproved meeting minutes. Any corrections will be made at the next Selectboard meeting on June 27, 2023)