



CITY OF PORTSMOUTH NH
Portsmouth Energy Advisory Committee
Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 5:30 pm

Meeting recording: <https://youtu.be/JPWGP4tVOTE>

Attending: Councilor John Tabor, Kevin Charette, Herb Lloyd, Councilor Cook, Ben D’Antonio. Staff: Jillian Harris, Stephanie Seacord (recording secretary) Not attending: Tom Rooney, Betsy Blaisdell, Tracey Cameron, Peter Somssich, Councilor Kate Cook

1. **Roll call** – Chair Tabor called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm. As a quorum was not present, no formal actions were taken.
2. **Approval of Minutes** – deferred to October meeting
3. **CPCNH net metering.** As the meeting packet information noted, CPCNH is pushing back against PUC/utility company efforts to lower the amount solar accounts are paid and to hold the current policy for the next two years. Eversource is reporting that it’s “technically hard” to provide net metering while CPCNH is seeking rates that vary with time-of-day demand and for battery storage options that allow solar owners to put energy back at maximum rate times. CPCNH’s goal is that all changes in net metering are supported in a way Community Power customers can take advantage. Kevin suggested that an update from CPCNH or our representative Tom Rooney might be a good topic for a future PEAC meeting. Chair Tabor commented that the zoom call with Brian Callnan demonstrated how complex the topic is; but Portsmouth had 140 solar customers when Portsmouth Community Power went live in 2023 and the group is growing.
4. **NH Saves “Button Up” Workshop October 23 at Community Campus** – Tracey Cameron is coordinating with the Library and Sustainability Committee. Outreach in the form of flyers, press release and City Newsletter all forthcoming.
5. **NREL statement of work** – Herb Lloyd reported he is expecting to hear back from NREL imminently but will be out of town September 10-17 and will forward, when received, to Chair Tabor. Following the first meeting, the scope is focused on how best to take advantage of City property on Peirce Island in and around the wastewater treatment facility.
6. **Jones Avenue solar array options** – Peter Somssich had intended to report back on research he has done on state and county options. Kevin commented that the Jones Avenue Commission report 2014-15 said the site was “not suitable for other uses” than passive recreation. More information is needed. Chair Tabor noted that if PEAC can identify a feasible and workable proposal for a solar array on the site – especially one that could generate power behind the meter – that there would be a public process of outreach, public comment and City Council policy decision before directing staff to advance any project. Kevin noted that Katrina at CleanEnergy NH and the CPCNH Projects team will be good resources for Portsmouth. A site visit to the Exeter solar array and/or zoom participation by the Exeter project manager in a PEAC meeting might be helpful.
7. **Green Challenge** – Launched August 1, Preliminary reports show the numbers and percentages of Community Power customers opting-up in Dover, Portsmouth, Newmarket, Durham and Exeter. Duration:

Aug 1, 2024 through Jan 31, 2025. PIO Stephanie Seacord will investigate options for yard signs – pricing, recyclable materials, etc. for the October meeting.

8. **Old business: None**

9. Adjourned at 6:30 pm

Next PEAC meeting: Wednesday, October 2 at 6:30 pm