

**NORTH COUNTRY COUNCIL COMMISSIONER MEETING MINUTES
Mount Eustis Commons - 1st Floor Conference Room
262 Cottage Street
Littleton, NH
Thursday, August 15th, 2019**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Steve Knox; Alan Rossetto; Dennis Lunn; Oliver Brooks; Peter Cooper; Stan Judge; Michael Belanger; Raymond Gorman; John Gallagher; Paul Robitaille; J.S. Fitzpatrick; Carl Martland; Imre Stauter; Charles Goolet; Jessica Williams; Keith Butchelder; Matt Kelly

PANELISTS: Mark Toussaint, Eversource; Bill Vecchio, NH Electric Coop; Heather Melone, USDA Rural Development; and Melissa Elander, North Country Energy Circuit Rider, Clean Energy NH; Henry Herndon, Clean Energy NH; and Jessica Wilcox, Granite State Clean Cities Coalition.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathleen Frenette, Co-Executive Director and COO; Danica Melone, Associate Planner; and Michelle Moren-Grey, Co-Executive Director and CEO.

OTHERS PRESENT: Doug Grant; Mary Forsyth; Dave Dubey; Chris Holt; Paul Renillard; Henry Noil; and Andrew Dorsett

4:00 Call to Order / Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Michelle Moren-Grey.

4:05 Minutes from April 18, 2019

The Minutes were distributed to the Commissioners, who reviewed them.

MOTION: Commissioner Knox moved to accept the Minutes of April 18th, 2019, as written. It was seconded by Commissioner Rossetto. The motion carried. (17-0-0).

4:10 Presentation: Energy Efficiency Funding and Financing Workshop

The presentations by energy professionals will cover topics including funding and financing opportunities for energy projects, and clean energy technologies including solar photovoltaics. The presentation is designed to provide a "snapshot" of the incentives that are available for energy efficiency projects. Panelists will include Clean Energy NH, Eversource, NH Electric Coop, Community Development Finance Authority, USDA Rural Development, and Granite State Clean Cities Coalition.

Ms. Moren-Grey described what was contained in the packet that was distributed to the Commissioners. Ms. Melone introduced Melissa Elander.

Ms. Elander began the presentation to the Commissioners. She spoke about Clean Energy NH to include its role and responsibilities. She went over the preliminary slides of the presentation.

Henry Herndon made a presentation regarding solar, while going over a slideshow.

Bill Vecchio made the presentation on behalf of NH Electric Coop, while going over a slideshow. He announced that NH Electric Coop and Eversource are cosponsoring a Drive Electric Relay, which is the first of the nation, starting in Colebrook and ending in Portsmouth.

Mark Toussaint made a presentation on behalf of Eversource, while going over a slideshow.

Heather Malone made a presentation on behalf of USDA Rural Development, while going over a slideshow.

Ms. Elander made a presentation on behalf of Community Development Finance Authority, since Scott Maslansky was unable to attend the meeting. She was assisted by a slideshow.

Jessica Wilcox made a presentation on behalf of Granite State Clean Cities Coalition, while going over a slideshow.

5:55 Public Comment

The following question-and-answer session took place:

- Q. I don't know how factual it is, but I've always heard that the electric vehicles weren't as efficient up in the North Country with the extreme cold weather. Is that true, or has that been resolved?
- A. Sure, I mean, what I will say is that the range of the vehicles is getting larger. We're going to start seeing that buildout to accommodate a faster charge, and as that happens I think that concern is going to be more diminished. So, it's definitely being addressed and they're very much aware of that.
- Q. Is there an opportunity, or is there a demand for battery storage technology up here?
- A. Great question, so there hasn't been much of a development of a battery storage market in NH other than for backup power, where we do see some of that. But, some of the States that are moving a little more quickly in terms of adopting new energy technologies, such as MA, they actually use the same NH Saves Efficiency Programs. The Mass Saves Efficiency Programs in MA have incentives for batteries, because we talked a little bit about the peak with Bill Vecchio. If you can sort of incentivize those batteries to discharge during that peak on the system, that's going to save the grid a lot of money. So that's something that could potentially be coming in terms of incentives or programs in the State.
- Q. Can you speak more to the NH State Regs on solar and changing the Regs and what will do for us, for municipal solar panels?
- A. Sure, so there's a couple scales. The main Policy that allows for there to be a viable solar market is called net metering, and that's essentially just you have your solar panels on your roof. It powers your home and the excess electricity flows back through the meter onto the grid. Net metering used to be a 1:1 ratio for compensation. There's also the Renewable Energy Fund at the Public Utility Commission, so there are those grants available to help pay for residential, commercial, municipal solar, as well as modern wood heating projects.
- Q. Specifically, with the net metering cap, mainly because NCC just attended the Bright Fields Conference, and in the end we had Northumberland there as a potential project with their potential solar array on the landfill. It was kind of interesting to learn that there's other States that the net metering cap is higher, and there's maybe an opportunity here in the future for us?
- A. Both this Session and last Session, there was a Bill that said you could net meter, because right now there's a cap. You can't net meter of 1 MW in scale. A lot of municipalities or communities might need more than 1 MW to offset all of their load. There's a Bill to raise that from 1 MW cap to a 5 MW cap. This year's Bill, there were 24 of 24 Senators voted in favor of it, and it was about 75% of the House voted for that Bill. It's House Bill 365. The Governor vetoed the Bill. The Legislature made an attempt to override this veto last time around, and they may make another attempt this time in September. The results of that would be unclear.
- Q. Who benefits from the current 1 MW Regulation?
- A. Some people say it's the Contractors that will benefit.
- Q. I haven't heard any mention of renewable energy credits. For these larger installations and municipal installations, can the towns get the renewable energy credits? Does the Coop? Does Eversource?
- A. The town could go through the work to get them, although it may not be worthwhile.

6:00 Adjournment

Ms. Moren-Grey thanked the Panelists for their presentation, and requested that everyone sign the sign-in sheet prior to leaving.

Respectfully Submitted,

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