Present: Marjorie Rogalski, Yolanda Baumgartner, Chris Kennedy, Barbara Callaway, Chris Kennedy, Dennis Robison, Judi Colla, Rob Houseman, Peter Kulbacki, Julia Griffin, April Salas, Stowe Bean, Nancy Serrell; Guests: Abby Wiseman, Joshua Singer, Ben Steele.

Minutes: The minutes of the February 17, 2021 meeting were approved.

Introduction: Yolanda Baumgartner welcomed Joshua Singer, Program Director with Clean Energy New Hampshire who will be the contact person with the Sustainable Hanover Committee.

Announcements: Norwich VT is forming a solid waste committee and is seeking members and is especially interested in recruiting a high school student.

Logo – Stowe Bean – The new logo is ready to launch and be distributed to those who use it regularly in correspondence, the SHC Newsletter, etc. It is similar in design to the one that has been used except for a switch in the three pillars underlining it. Currently they are Energy/Environment/Community and will become Community/Energy/Environment, highlighting the importance of community first. Marcus Welker will be distributing the logo. It should be tied to announcements of events, tied to the signature line of correspondence, events, etc.

Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH): Julia Griffin & April Salas: Work is ongoing to establish the formal criteria for membership and reconstitute the Electric Aggregation Committee to get it before the respective legislative bodies of members and potential members. Julia will send out a “how we got here” to us. Hanover’s Selectboard will get it on Monday (3/22/2021). She suggested that the SHC might work on FAQ’s related to the CPCNH. It is important to work closely with Lebanon on timing. She commended Clifton Below (Lebanon) and Henry Herndon on their efforts to turn HB 315 from a negative to a positive, resulting in a 20-0 vote supporting the new amendments.

Electric Vehicles (EV): - Ben Steele – the Transportation Committee of SHC’s Energy subcommittee has developed a survey which established a core of individuals who own EVs who are willing to serve as mentors to individuals interested in purchasing an EV. So far there have been over 40 inquiries and interest is spreading beyond the Valley. For example, someone in Andover MA wanted to publicize this effort in the local papers and listserves. The question is whether or not we should venture out of our Upper Valley area. Ben is seeking guidance from SHC. The discussion that ensued suggested that we should pool our efforts with other communities that are doing similar services e.g., New London. Caution in overloading volunteer mentors was suggested. Joshua Singer offered his services to help Ben in his deliberations.

Updates:

Equity, Inclusion, Justice (EIJ) Judi Colla – She will attempt to bring the ad hoc committee together soon. She mentioned collaboration instituted by Dr. Norm Levy with Twin Pines and Norwich Solar to supply discounts (20% less that utilities charge) to meet the energy needs for low and moderate communities in Norwich which has been very successful. This same effort is doable in New Hampshire. This might be a way to reach out to a similar demographic in the Hanover area, if they can be identified. It could also be a way to engage these folks meeting an inclusion goal. Community
power is a way to reach out to marginalized communities. Yolanda noted that Twin Pines’ Hanover complex is going solar with a single rather than individual meter. Identification of these communities might be a goal of the EIJ committee.

Annual Report: Marjorie Rogalski – reports are due this week will show an impressive number of accomplishments for the year.

Annual Forum: Yolanda Baumgartner, Judi Colla – The date of the Forum is Thursday, April 29, beginning at Noon and lasting 1 ½ hours. Abby Wiseman will work on the video presentations of the High School environmental club leaders who have developed the climate action plan for the school and this year have been working on environmental justice. In addition, there will be three business who have adopted energy efficiency strategies. Finally, Judy Payne, who built a composting site to share with neighbors, will give a presentation. If the video production of these efforts are successful, there are other programs that may be featured. Marcelo Gleiser will be the featured speaker and Stowe Bean will be the moderator. There will be an attempt to conduct a real time poll during the forum thanks to Rob Houseman.

Website: Stowe Bean – work is progressing and individuals continue to provide content. He is hoping to “go live” at the Forum.

Ebikes: Yolanda Baumgartner – The starting date for this ebike test/rental program will be May 9th. An effort to find a place to locate the program in Hanover is still ongoing. Last year the upper deck of the downtown parking garage was used. Suggestions for other locations – High School, Kendal at Hanover, Storrs Pond/Ice rink, Dartmouth. Thought is being given to a bike tour of alternative energy sites in Hanover.

Community Solar: Marjorie Rogalski – Revision Energy wants to create a community solar program in the State and is looking for land (1-2 acres). Two faith organizations are interested in the potential – Hanover’s Friends Meeting and the Church of Christ at Dartmouth College. There was considerable discussion about possible sites.

Newsletter: Dennis Robison – the Spring issue will be published mid May, after the Forum.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Robison