Energy Subcommittee Meeting  
October 9, 2018, 1 to 2:30 pm

Attendees: Judi Colla, Josh Hotvet, Rob Houseman, Pete Kulbacki, Stowe Beam, Yolanda Baumgartner, April Salas, Ally Samuell (phone), Julia Griffin, Heidi Trimarco

Agenda:
Review September minutes (thanks, Mike!)

Announcements
- New member: Josh Hotvet. Welcome aboard. Focus will be on non-muni community solar within the committee.
- NHSEA Local Energy Solutions Conference, Nov 16 Grappone Ctr, Concord
- Citizen’s Climate Lobby: 10/14 Kilton Library in West Lebanon
- Energy Institute Lunch: 10/18. Dartmouth. Students presenting on NH/VT/QC.
- Next meeting - Nov. 13. Location will still occur 2nd floor conference room, Town Hall.
- Rob/April/Julia attended breakout sessions at Municipal Roundtable in Concord. Can share details for those interested.
- Josh attended a NH legislature discussion last week, discussed model solar ordinance discussion. Has Hanover looked at that? Rob: our ordinance came out ahead of that model and we submitted our for reference in the creation of the model ordinance. Planning Board will revisit zoning requirements against the model ordinance in November, 2018. A couple of towns moving to adopt model ordinance.

New Business
- Property Tax Exemption for Renewables (Heidi)
  - Towns can offer property tax exemptions for solar installations. Currently, Hanover does not have this formal exemption, but Hanover does not currently add property value at assessment for renewable energy (wind/solar/wood heat) upgrades. Heidi proposing that Hanover move to adopt property tax exemption for solar/renewables.
    - Town is concerned about petitions for reductions in value from property owners, with renewable installations, even though the renewables were not incorporated into assessment. This would bring an additional legal workload for town when this gets pushed through. Board of Selectman revisits this annually and will again. There is some evidence regionally that renewables are adding assessed home values for buying/selling in the real estate market. This could inform tax appraisals in the future in some towns. In Hanover, home values are not yet showing changes based on renewable installations or energy efficiency upgrades.
    - Adopting this ordinance would therefore be pre-emptive to prevent future tax assessments from including renewable installations. Town would also need to be clear that the town would not lose tax revenue.
    - Julia, Pete, and Rob will meet with town assessor, Dave McMullen, as soon as he’s done with this year’s assessment and then set up a discussion.
    - Alternative could be for town to issue a statement of policy to clarify for property owners what is / is not included in property tax assessments, per ordinance and per practice.
    - Large education piece needed regardless. A statement from an appraiser/assessor to explain what they are seeing in the market, especially the unique Hanover market. This is a complex issue with many interrelated issues at the federal, state, and local levels.

Team/Project Updates
- NH Ready for 100 Workshop - Nov 2 (Ally)
100% municipal workshop at Dartmouth/Hanover. Draft agenda out for review. Invitations going out tomorrow (planned), from Ally, cc’ing Julia. Agenda is finalized. NH Sustainable Energy Association (Henry) is on board to lead an afternoon workshop: Demystifying the PUC. Committee voiced support for the inclusion of this workshop, especially with NH case examples (e.g. Lebanon). Kourtney from 3Degrees to lead morning workshop on municipal solar in NH. Aiming to add a Legislative Update during lunch.

1 hour 20 minute roundtable discussion on moving toward 100% renewable.
- Who should moderate? Potentially Sarah Brock? What are 3 to 4 key topics for discussion focus? One table or breakouts?

Welcome address: Someone from SHC to highlight Hanover as 1st in NH and summarize the journey to date
- Is this a one-off or a recurring event? Aim to answer this by end of workshop, intentionally asking attendees for input and potential frequency.

- Grasse Road project (April)
  - Draft deck expected this weekend

- Non Muni Community Solar (Marjorie)
  - Meeting this Thursday
  - NH statute does not provide incentive. Process needs one host that can bear risk and contract with each community member. This creates high transaction costs. There is no example in NH, yet, of successful community solar.
  - NHSEA needs to provide a model community solar ordinance.
  - Town may need to be the one host to then contract to neighbors that want to participate, receiving a rebate or similar for participation, based on the net metering payments received by town from Liberty Utility.

- VPPA/Purchasing Group (Julia)
  - Courtney has provided updated VPPA deck, tailored for Hanover and our specific audiences, starting with Dartmouth Exec VP Rick Mills. Julia and April to sit down and review next week.
  - Have revised scope 2 from Courtney on her next stage of work.
  - Lots of discussion on other potential options, beyond VPPA and municipal aggregation:
    - Cape Wind project will be part of next Town meeting with Dartmouth. Would be a PPA for Hanover, since it’s in our ISO. This is a good potential for additionality created regionally/locally and not just obtaining 100% renewable via distant sourcing (e.g. Kansas wind farms). Closer sourcing also 1) limits line loss and any 2) leverages requirements for purchasing lowest cost fuel, which inherently prioritizes wind and solar over natural gas/coal.
    - Creating municipalities can include multiple towns/entities; it’s not limited to city limits or just to towns/cities. Can include regional planning commissions and school districts.
    - Lebanon’s pending solar projects Phase I,II, and III includes bringing in a developer.
    - Cooperatives
    - Liberty to offer green purchasing option
      - Battery pilot will be open to all NH rate-payers, not just Lebanon residents.
      - Opting into battery pilot, if you are currently Net Metering 1.0, will automatically trigger a change to Net Metering 2.0. Liberty is saying if folks then opt back out of the battery pilot, folks can get back into 1.0. PUC needs to provide written guidance.

- Strategies/Communications (Judi)
  - Working document in process, currently focuses on metrics. Judi is trying to verify 3Degrees claims on MW/hr outputs of solar/wind examples. Julia to confirm values with Courtney during Thursday meeting. Also to share deck with Josh and Heidi. This relates to how we report output from existing solar installations already in Hanover; we may be underestimating output.
- Meeting with Mike on Thursday re: transportation data.
- Judi to review current draft with Julia.
- Moving beyond data collection and into communication to town.

- Metrics (Honor/Mike)
  - Not discussed during this meeting.

- Dashboard (April) *(NHSEA developing NH version)*
  - Beta version out; better than nothing but not nearly up to example in VT

- Business Workshop of 10/3 (April)
  - Solicitations around electrification of fleets: municipal and school districts
  - Warner has developed a community power entity.
  - Building energy codes were heavily discussed. NH adopted 2009 code, even though there are
    much more recent versions. NH Builders Association pushes back on any code updates.

- Schools (David/Yolanda)
  - Not discussed during this meeting.

Other

- Next steps for committee:
  - Draft an energy plan this fall/winter--here's where we are and here are the specific goals and
    timelines. This will help establish priorities and recruitment of folks into work groups on those
    priorities.

Recorder: Stowe Beam