

**Town of Boscawen  
ENERGY COMMITTEE  
Boscawen Municipal Complex  
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 5:30 P.M.**

**Members Present:** Edward J. Cherian Jr— Chair; Charles Niebling— Vice Chair; Gary Tillman

**Absent:** Nate Preisendorfer; Paul Dickey—Ex Officio

**Guest Speakers:** Matt Taylor—Central NH Regional Planning Commission

**Staff Present:** Kearsten O'Brien—Deputy Planning & Community Development Director; Kara Gallagher—Planning & Community Development Assistant; Gary Moore—Facilities Director

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Chair Cherian opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

PCD Assistant Gallagher completed roll call.

**Minutes:**

**Mr. Tillman motioned to accept the 7.11.22 draft minutes as presented. Seconded by Vice Chair Niebling. All in favor. None opposed.**

**Meeting Frequency:**

The members felt as though monthly meetings were no longer necessary. Chair Cherian asked what the Committee would like to do for meeting frequency. Vice Chair Niebling proposed to have meetings every other month with the summer month off, with the provision to call a meeting if needed. The 5 meetings will take place for the future in January, March, May, September, and November. The next meeting would be November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022. All concurred.

**Old Business:**

**Energy Ordinance:** Chair Cherian said this has been worked on for a while with CNHRPC and is now being handed off from Stephanie Alexander to Matt Taylor. Chair Cherian felt at this point the Committee has contributed all they can and felt comfortable having Mr. Taylor complete the final edit before sending it off to the Select Board. Mr. Taylor updated the Committee on any major changes he made. Vice Chair Niebling asked to make sure the most recent EPA Regulations on Outdoor Wood Boilers, Outdoor Wood Fired Hydronic Heaters, and Air Emissions Regulations are updated. Mr. Taylor said he will make sure those are updated. Chair Cherian asked Deputy PCD Director O'Brien to let the Committee know when the document is handed off to the Select Board.

**Energy Facility Tours-Briar Hydro, MVSD, & Merrimack County:** Vice Chair Niebling said the Committee has an open invitation with Briar Hydro to visit their facilities. He has also been

trying to get ahold of Fred Reagan, Facilities Director of Merrimack Valley School District, to schedule a visit to the boiler room which heats all of the campus buildings, but has not yet done so. Vice Chair Niebling said the other location the Committee should visit is the Merrimack County Correctional Facility, which has a system that heats the entire east side of Route 3. Deputy PCD Director O'Brien spoke with Ross Cunningham at the MC Facilities and he is more than willing to give the Committee a tour sometime this fall. Vice Chair Niebling suggested a tour of one or more of these facilities in lieu of the October meeting. Discussion ensued. Chair Cherian asked for the dates and times to be posted to the town website and Facebook page so that any residents or Boards/Committees that wish to attend have the option to. Vice Chair Niebling suggested trying to get something in the *Newsvine* as well since that publication goes to every mailbox in town.

*Clean Power Coalition:* The Joint Powers Agreement was taken to the Select Board. Deputy PCD Director O'Brien said she had not heard yet anything about the status of this. Chair Cherian suggested having Henry Herndon attend a Select Board meeting to help the Board members understand the document better. This item will be kept on the agenda under old business.

*Merrimack County Solar RFP:* Chair Cherian went on a tour recently to view the proposed site for the solar RFP. He doesn't think it's a great site partly because of the direction it faces and partly because of the slope. He said the storm water work will be quite a challenge. It is not an engineered site. He also told the Committee that Merrimack County intends to own this, there will be no PILOT agreement with the town. Deputy PCD Director O'Brien said they will have to go through the Planning Board and pull building permits.

### **New Business:**

*Facilities Director Discussion on Energy Audit:* Chair Cherian asked Facilities Director Moore what his future goals are for the Municipal Complex and how this Committee could help. FD Moore is planning to use ARPA funds to replace 7 HVAC systems within the Municipal Complex. This will help bring the building from 70% efficiency up to around 90%. He also has received some quotes for insulation. FD Moore feels this will greatly improve the building's energy efficiency. He feels the new insulation and HVAC systems will save the town at least \$400 a month in energy costs. After 11 years the town will have a return on their investment and will begin to save around \$5,000 a year. These figures were based off of 2021 costs. Vice Chair Niebling said there could be potential rebates for these costs as well. Chair Cherian asked if this has been proposed to the Select Board yet. FD Moore said not yet because he didn't have all of the figures prepared. Chair Cherian suggested having different amounts and scenarios to present. Once more research has been done and more information has been gathered the Committee would be willing to write a letter of recommendation for FD Moore to take with him to present at the Select Board and then again to the Budget Committee.

*EV Charging Stations:* Chair Cherian asked if there was any action for the Committee to take. Deputy PCD Director O'Brien was supposed to talk about this with the Economic Development Committee but has not yet had the chance. Vice Chair Niebling said Tesla will be making all of their charging stations open to all electric vehicles by use of a subscription service. There will be options on how payment can be made, for example per charge, a monthly or yearly fee, etc.

Chair Cherian said this will reduce the need for EV chargers in Boscawen because multiple Tesla stations were just added off of exit 17 at the new liquor store. This topic will be moved to old business.

**Municipal Transportation Tax:** The Municipal Transportation tax is an opportunity to add up to five dollars at Town Meeting to vehicle registrations. This would be a transportation fund. It could help raise money to match federal dollars that can help with adding lighting, extending concord transit, sidewalk repair and more. Deputy PCD Director O'Brien said this was something she wanted to talk to the Energy Committee about because it can be used for EV charging stations and lighting. Vice Chair Niebling would like to know more about what projects this money would be put towards, estimated expenses and how many vehicles in town this tax would be applied to.

**Other Business:**

**Chair Cherian motioned to enter a nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3, II (j). Seconded by Vice Chair Niebling. All in favor. None opposed.**

**Vice Chair Niebling motioned to exit nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3, II (j). Seconded by Mr. Tillman. All in favor. None opposed.**

**Chair Cherian motioned to seal the nonpublic minutes for one year under RSA 91-A:3, II (j). Seconded by Mr. Tillman. All in favor. None opposed.**

**Vice Chair Niebling motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Tillman. All in favor. None opposed.**

**Next Meeting:** Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 5:30 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Kara Gallagher.*