October 18, 2023 Minutes

Bennington Community Power

present: David McKenzie, Jim Cleary, Molly Flower Eppig, Mike Munhall, Deb Davidson [Committee Members], Robert Hayden [of Standard Power], Doreen Robertson [citizen]

Called to order 7:04 pm at the SelectBoard Meeting Room.

Robert Hayden handed out guides to his presentation, and told the group about the history of the plan to permit citizens to aggregate for lower power rates. He pointed out that EverSource would still provide the energy but that it would be purchased for us by Community Power. Should the plan be approved, electricity consumers would have four choices, most with lower rates and all with varying amounts of energy from renewable sources.

The Committee's Timeline

>planning done

>public input from survey done

The Committee voted tonight to close the survey on Monday, October 23.

>public input from hearings one more public hearing Nov 1st

>submit plan to PUC for approval by December 1st

Bob's team will create a plan to submit to the PUC, and give it to us November 1st

>submit plan as Warrant Article for approval in March, 2024

>buy electricity

>public education about options; citizens make choices

>citizens should see a reduction in their electricity rate June, 2024

Next meeting will be at the hearing on November 1st, in the SelectBoard meeting room.

Meeting adjourned 7:50 pm