

Milford Energy Advisory Committee /
Milford Community Power Committee
[MEAC /MCPC]

Mr. Paul Dargie, Chair Milford Board of Selectmen

Mrs. Vanessa Sheehan, Milford Budget Advisory Committee, Milford Citizen

Mr. Bob Hayden, Standard Power of America

Ms. Emily Manns, Standard Power of America

Minutes of the 2 February 2023 MEAC / MCPC meeting

Called to order: 5:00 p.m.

Police Department Community Room

Voting Members:

John Yule

Rob Costantino

Scott Lawrence - excused absence

Eric Fischer [FISCH]

Mike Thornton (c)

Open:

1st Alternate

2nd Alternate

Guests:

Paul Dargie - Chair, Board of Selectmen

Dave Freel – Selectman (absent)

Mrs. Vanessa Sheehan

Member Town Budget

Advisory Committee

Milford Citizen

Bob Hayden, Standard

Power of America

Emily Manns, Standard

Power of America

1] Call to order

2] Pledge of Allegiance

3] introduce members and guests

Old Business:

4] Discuss negative and positive (2 February 2023) of our survey.

New Business:

5] Mark up previous 'Draft Plan.' Incorporating our Survey results.

6] Post updated 'Draft Plan' on the Town website.

Discussions:

Old Draft Plan (7 December 2022), as Mrs. Sheehan noted, is still the version most easily seen on the Town website.

Mike is to contact Chris Gentry of Granite Town Media to have each Draft Plan automatically posted. [Attempted 3 February- Chris Gentry was dedicated to the setup for Deliberative Session].

Discussion about the number of eligible ratepayers and survey results. Eligible ratepayers likely about 5,000 +/- . The rest, perhaps 1,000 +/- , probably already have a plan. That would be 16.67% a bit above the 10 - 15% average Statewide.

The Survey results to date (113 returns - about 22.5%) returns.

Results are to be accepted until 11 February 2023 with results reported to the BoS on 13 February 2023 requesting their formal approval of that Draft Plan, thus becoming the Milford Community Power Plan. That will become the Milford Plan to be voted on at the Town Election 14 March 2023.

Discussion that the Opt-in option has been available for about 20 years and still only, perhaps, 15% +/- have known to take advantage and save money. About 90% of the Town BAC have such plans already.

Discussion that the automatic renewal rates associated with the voluntary contracts original 'teaser' rates often jump up upon renewal.

Discussion concerning the additional consumer protections associated with Community Power as defined by RSA 53-E.

If you have a plan already, you will receive a post card announcing the Milford Community Power Plan. People who are on EVERSOURCE default power will receive a letter notification that they are eligible for automatic inclusion into the Milford Community Power Program unless you OPT-OUT. If you fail to opt-out and are displeased with saving money, you may opt-out at any time without any penalty. Subsequently you may opt-in again at any time, for any reason, without charge or penalty.

The floor' was given to Mrs. Vanessa Sheehan for her to discuss her concerns. First was that the Plan could legally be written as an OPT-IN plan but was not. Bob Hayden explained that an opt-in program would not be economically viable for any aggregator due to excessive risk with limited opportunities for a reasonable return. Further concerns included the speed with which the Milford Community Power Committee had advanced. That Milford should have taken an entire year to follow suit. The rebuttal would, most likely, cost Milford's residents and small businesses from \$2 - \$2.5M during that year.

The two other concerns were that we had not contacted the Milford School District or the Town of Milford to discuss an integrated savings program. Bob Hayden explained that both the Town & Schools are part of the least expensive "base load" and would lose their most favorable rates to save residents a very small bit of their rate. This would likely be rejected by Town and Schools as poor business practice.

John Yule interjected that we could only move this expeditiously due to the work of other towns who have tested the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) authorization process. The MEAC / MCPC Plan has been rewritten to include the default rate as the lowest possible cost option available.

The option is always available to voluntarily elect a higher level of renewable power for very little additional cost. The extra cost for an additional 10% of renewable power would likely cost between .3 to .4 tenths of a penny per kilowatt hour. For a 1,500 kWh use customer that could cost between 45 to 60 CENTS per month over the lowest possible rate.

Part of the MEAC / MCPC mission is to educate the Milford public about their options for electricity this year and different forms of energy in out years while we strive to improve our current Electrical Power Plan base on our experience.

John Yule is "dismayed with the use of of Google Drive versus a simple Agenda and Minutes via a PDF file." Mike pledged to make this change immediately.

Mr. Bartolomucci has been concerned about the rush and that we have not contracted the Milford School District about joining their Plan. Bob Hayden explained that the Town and Schools have rates based on the Base Load while the Residents use much more expensive Peak Load. Milford, as a community, might not be best served by adding the Peak demand with the Town and Schools very favorable plans.

Sticking to a PUC approved Plan is the safest policy since the PUC could easily reject any such Plan as unacceptable in their opinion.

Bob explained that currently renewables are actually less expensive than fossil fuel fired generation options. John said that since we are going to the lowest cost option, that concern is no longer valid.

Vanessa said she would examine the newest Plan prior to Deliberative Session.

Mike raised the next year mission to contact both the Town & School District next year to explore any cost savings from forming a unified buying consortium.

Fisch moved to make our default the lowest cost possible, seconded by John.

Paul Dargie and Vanessa Sheehan had a discussion while others spoke; however, Mrs. Sheehan said "I might come back, I might join the Committee." This gave us all significant hope for filling out our membership on the MEAC / MCPC.

Vanessa brought up the fact that once the voters had approved the Plan that the BoS could subsequently alter the approved Plan out of recognition. People could simply opt-out. As John and Fisch discussed. Further discussion explained that people could still opt-out of any Plan even if the BoS made the default 100% renewable electrical energy mandatory in the Milford Plan.

Fisch asked for the Data Protection Plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Thornton