

## Energy and Climate Action Committee

Minutes – 1/14/2025  
[approved 2/11/2025]  
Virtual Meeting

Meeting called to order at 5:03pm.

Committee Members Present: Michael DeChiara, Chair, Gail Fleischaker, Isaac, Goldstein, Nate Heard

Public attendees: Denise Allard (Colonial Power Group), Mark Cappadona (Colonial Power Group), Bert Schwarz (prospective member of ECAC)

### **5:10 Community Choice Aggregation (Nate)**

Mark and Denise presented plan\* for CCA. Colonial likes to maintain generality and flexibility. No need to place specifics in front of the state. Get the town approved for everything in order to avoid reapplying and delays in submission. If the town plan is edited it may delay implementation. Leaving information TBD and pointing to a website for updates is preferable to maintain flexibility and expedite processing by DPW.

Colonial CCA general Plan is an order once filed can be processed within 120 days.

*\*Plan is the logistical process. What you need in place to meet statutory requirements.*

“Products” are what we will be offering clients, leave flexibility so we can choose at the town level.

- Review draft documents in conjunction with Colonial Power Group.
- Seek recommendation for Select Board
- Draft document reviewed by ECAC with Colonial Power Group:
- Plan uses population (1700) vs. number of households.
- Dates will be filled in prior to filing (including town meeting date)
- “Agent before the department” is Colonial Power that will work with National Grid
- Colonial does not make decisions; they provide options for products.
- Customer notification is a standardized language that is sent out by Colonial Power to town consumers
- Most of the town is National Grid but there is a small contingency of Eversource users.
- Colonial Power is aware and will be on the lookout.
- Colonial Power will have a community website which will reflect our rates and products that will link to our town website once approved. Initially our town website will house the proposal.
- “Program termination” is something done by the town- to end CCA if we choose to do so.
- Customer Service – Colonial Power and the Utility will provide the majority of Customer Service. They will provide town contact and townspeople can reach out – traditionally Town Administrator.
- Universal access is required to all residents of Shutesbury.
- Reliability – the town cannot go in and out of CCA. If we are in and terminate the contract or suspend the program, we will not be allowed back in for two years and would need to go through the application process again under different terms. If we

wish to alter the plan that is an open option to us (modification provisions). Updating ongoing program operations revisions are possible. The important piece is to keep power supply going as a 3rd party without going back to basic utility power. We can change products from one supply contract to the next as well as join another aggregation program with multiple towns. If we wish to do so, we need to post for 30 days.

- 24 months in the market before we need to jump on a rate.
- Post for public review then goes to Select Board to vote to approve. Auto opt-in unless you want to opt out is necessary. 3rd party supply will be opt in, postcards will be sent out to these consumers.

### **5:40 Updates**

#### - EV chargers (Isaac)

Spoke with Nick Valore at ECR. Differentiated Charging times on different charging stations. Level 2 vs Level 2 (supercharger) vs Level 3

- Discussed different incentives remaining through the National Grid grant. Fleet vs Public Access chargers.
- Fleet chargers would be municipal Level 3 chargers. The town would be liable for cost of electricity and for maintenance. \$1200/yr per charging station (two ports per station \$600/port)
- Public Charging stations can be run through ECR, if they run the stations they cover all expenses and share 50% of profits with the town. Level 2 public charging stations need to be EV only (monitored by the building, i.e. town hall, library, or school) Fuzzy on enforcement of this or if there are teeth to this. Spots must also be ADA compliant (but do not need to be designated as handicapped)
- There are only Level 2 Public Charging Grants and Level 3 Fleet Grants remaining
- We will discuss recommendations to select board at our next meeting in February,

#### - Decarbonization Roadmap Grant (Nate)

No update, Next window is March 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### - Other?

Electrical MLP in Leverett. In one giant parcel on the same side of the road is a possibility, Invite Richard to the April meeting.

### **6:00 Plan for public hearing and forum for Climate Leaders Status**

Prior to town meeting. Possibly March for public forum.

### **6:10 Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes from 12/17/24 moved by Nate, seconded by Isaac.

Motion approved unanimously: Michael, Aye; Gail, Aye; Isaac, Aye; Nate, Aye. Next meeting. February 11<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm Notes by Gail

Motion to adjourn moved by Nate, seconded by Gail.

Motion approved unanimously: Michael, Aye; Gail, Aye; Isaac, Aye; Nate, Aye.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:42pm

*Respectfully Submitted Isaac Goldstein*