**Bethlehem Energy Commission – August 6, 2024**

**Present:**  Dan Crosby, David van Houten, Scott Caisse, Mary Lou Krambeer, Bruce Caplain (Select Board Liaison)

**Excused:** Chuck Phillips

**Public Input:** no

**Mission:** Mission: The Bethlehem Energy Commission encourages and supports economically and environmentally sensible energy practices in Bethlehem, NH.

**AGENDA**

-Meeting Minutes from May, 2024. No meetings were held in May or June.

David made a motion to accept minutes. Second by Scott. Passed unanimously.

-Community Power

-Village District

-Eversource update

-EV Charging Station

-Solarize North Country, Main Street Solar

-Other

**Community Power:**

As of the June launch, CPCNH is serving municipalities representing approximately 27% of NH’s population, up from about 13% in June of 2023. With the planned October launch, CPCNH it is expected to become the default electricity provider for municipalities representing ~35% of NH’s population. Under multiple future scenarios, it is reasonable to expect CPCNH could become the default electricity supplier in municipalities representing more than 50% of New Hampshire’s population in 2026.

**Rate Card & July Update**

July 1 is the statutory deadline for posting rates which go into effect on August 1. A new Rate Card is available at Town Hall. Rates may be found

on www.CommunityPowerNH.gov and the NH Dept. of Energy Electricity Shopping website.

David – are there any additional Community Power benefits for the town at this time? Answer: not that we know of but, we’ll keep looking.

**Eversource Dollars:** Battery storage **-** 50% incentive with a $200,000 cap.

Reimbursement process clarified versus “grant money” up front. Town of Bethlehem is interested in learning more about this possibility.

**EV Chargers:** Swimming pool parking lot is a possible location for a Level 2 charging station.Rough cost to install new circuit estimated at about $10,000. Much more to come.

**Solarize North Country and Main Street Power:**  Solar arrays are going up on 33 homes. This level of participation in the process gave everyone a 15% reduction on their original quotes saving customers an additional $140,000.

**Main Street Solar:**  Moving (very) slowly. Barrington is backed up so we may be using Mains Electric as a supplemental supplier for Maia Papaya.

**Village District Waste Water Solar Project:** all solar elements are in place, now waiting for shutdown to happen and then Eversource will put in the new meter and explain how the system will work. Project deadline: Dec. 31, 2024.

**Village District Water Solar Project:** Need to schedule an audit for the drinking water solar project for a future funding application. This should happen in the fall.

**Other:**

* Grafton County $4m ARPA dollars are still available. **Mary Lou** to explore.
* **Bruce** will talk to Barrington about BES conduit maintenance.
* Pool area is covered/included in our municipal array.
* Figure out a framework for project metrics (project overview/grants received/cost/savings). **David & Dan to pursue**.
* Have we completed the application for direct payment reimbursement from the federal government for municipal solar. **Bruce** ask Mary Mortiz.
* Program under development at NH DOE to direct more dollars for energy efficiencies $36m. More info coming.

**Next Meeting:** Sept 3 at Library; Scott to facilitate. Mary Lou and Bruce will not be attending.