

Energy & Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Notes

January 25, 2023

Present: Mari Brunner, *City of Keene*; Alicia Flammia, *Town of Walpole*, (remote); Jane B. Johnson, *Town of Swanzey*, (remote); John Kondos, *Clean Energy NH*, (remote); Joe Levesque, *Town of Alstead*, (remote); Richard Mellor, *Town of Rindge*; Marge Shepardson, *Town of Marlborough*, (remote); Francie Von Mertens, *Town of Peterborough*, (remote); Ruth Ward, *Town of Stoddard*, (remote).

Staff members present: Lisa Murphy, *Senior Planner*; Rich Clough, *Office Support Specialist*.

Guests: Barbara Green, *Lake Warren Association*, (remote); Nora Hanke, *Monadnock Sustainability Hub*, (remote); Brenda Leonard, *NH Trust Fund*, (remote); Beth Malcolm, Johnna McKenna and Emily Nichols, *NH Department of Environmental Services NH DES*, (remote); Bruce Soltys, *Spofford Lake Association*, (remote); Molly Thunberg, *NHDES*, (remote); and Bayard Tracy, *Spofford Lake Association*, (remote).

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Senior Planner Lisa Murphy called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. and introductions were made.

II. Minutes of October 5, 2022

Tabled due to lack of a quorum.

III. Surface and Groundwater Protection

Lisa Murphy introduced NH DES staff to provide a description of funding options for the protection of surface and groundwater, including infrastructure improvements. Johnna McKenna noted that the Clean Water State Revolving (CWSR) Loan Fund helps infrastructure projects, sustainability grants, planning grants, municipal water systems, master plan assistance, energy audit, and even cyber security. She stated that a pre-application is expected in April 2023. Molly Thunberg stated that the source water program included aspects such as land acquisition, a water utility fund, well head protection, and lake and river protection. Beth Malcolm described the CWSR fund as a State-aid grant program that allows communities to take on a wide array of eligible items including implementation, green project reserve energy audits, green infrastructure, and rain gardens. She noted that some subsidized programs have sliding benefits including no closing costs, no prepaid penalties and additional subsidies for affordability and sustainability. She also stated that some grants require matches of between 20-30% from municipalities. Emily Nichols added that there is funding for unavoidable impacts, watershed service areas, restoration, and to enhance preservation. She noted that grant rounds occur annually and that municipalities, counties, educational organizations, and RPCs can apply. She added that support from local Conservation Commissions and Select Boards were vital in assisting with applications.

IV. Committee Leadership

Lisa Murphy explained that the Committee needed to nominate a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Following general discussion Joe Levesque accepted the nomination for Chairman and Mari Brunner accepted the nomination of Vice-Chairman. These nominations will be sent to the SWRPC Board of Directors for consideration.

V. Update on Watershed Projects

Lisa Murphy updated the Committee on the progress of a number of projects. She stated that Lake Warren implementation project was complete and that the Ashuelot River Watershed project was nearing completion. Work has begun with Spofford Lake implementation project and it will be ramping up in the Spring to begin implementing the selected projects. The Swanzey Lake Watershed Management Plan is in its early stages.

VI. Future Topics and Meeting Dates for 2023

Lisa Murphy stated that proposed dates for the remaining meetings in 2023 were April 26, July 26, and October 25, all at 3:30 p.m. She asked the Committee for possible presentation topics. After discussion it was suggested that Solar Development, Climate Change and Community Power would be good topics for future meetings.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Clough
Office Support Specialist