

**Town of Boscawen
ENERGY COMMITTEE
Boscawen Municipal Facility
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 19th, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Edward J. Cherian, Jr – Chair, Charles Niebling – Vice Chair, Gary Tillman, Matthew Burdick – Ex Officio

Members Excused: Nate Preisendorfer

Staff Present: Kellee Jo Easler – Planning and Community Development Director & Ruth Ashby – Planning and Community Development Assistant

Chair Cherian opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

PCD Director Easler completed roll call.

Minutes:

Mr. Tillman motioned to accept the 2/15/24 draft minutes as presented. Seconded by Vice Chair Niebling. All in favor. None opposed.

Old Business:

Update on LED Street Lights: Per Vice Chair Niebling, there was a call today (3/19/24) with Affinity, accordingly it was very useful. The proposal showed the total project costs are approximately \$38K. Unitil has already approved a \$24K+ rebate, leaving a balance of approximately \$13K. Fixtures are \$17K, and we finance that and the balance, to equal about \$31K with Unitil over 5 years at 0%. The savings after paying off the loan will amount to about \$6200/year which is about 80% of the electricity amount on the bill. If the Select Board approves the proposal, the Town would enter into a contract sometime in the weeks following the approval. We would then pay 50% of the upfront costs. At that time, Affinity does an audit of all fixtures in town and comes up with a plan. This will take a couple of weeks. The Town will then review and approve. Then fixtures are ordered, installed sometime in late May or early June, then the Town pays the remaining 50%. The town receives 2 checks, a rebate check and a check for \$13K. Unitil puts the money up front then gets paid back. The numbers in the proposal are based on Unitil inventory. Actual inventory could be more or less. We, as a community, get to decide on # of fixtures, quality of light, and brightness. The police dept and fire dept will be brought in as needed for input as to public safety implications. In most communities, the amount comes in lower than inventory. The finance director was given information to determine the timing of the capital outlay and reimbursement. Discussion about where money will come from ensued. Finance and HR Director Merrill is tasked with figuring out the distribution of monies.

45 Through NH Saves rebate authority Affinity has completed 120 municipalities in Maine and New
46 Hampshire. Whether or not to replace lights that have been out for years was discussed. Also
47 discussed was blue light which gives the horizon better contrast.
48

49 **Vice Chair Niebling motioned that we recommend to the Select Board the town proceed with**
50 **the Affinity plan. All in favor, none opposed.**
51

52 Discussion ensued about what to do with lights that have been out for years. Unless there is a
53 safety issue, it was decided not to replace lights that have been out for years.
54

55 **New Business:**
56

57 Election of Committee Officers: Nominations were held, and Charlie Niebling was voted in as the
58 new Chair. Nate Preisendorfer was voted in as the Vice Chair. All in favor, none opposed.
59

60 Committee recapped the past years projects:

- 61 • Directly saving people money through Community Power Coalition NH (CPCNH)
- 62 • Affinity Light Initiative
63

64 Vice Chair Niebling's thoughts for the upcoming year:

- 65 • Community Solar Initiative (RFP) potential options for town to invest work with Director
66 of Public Works Hollins on what properties might be appropriate.
- 67 • There is federal money getting deployed from the State Dept of Energy which is a very
68 small department. They're developing plans to roll out millions of dollars of incentive
69 funding to municipalities, to individuals, help people in town learn about options to take
70 advantage of what's available.
- 71 • Look into EV Charging in town in high traffic areas.
72

73 **Mr. Tillman motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Vice Chair Niebling. All in favor. None**
74 **opposed.**
75

76 **Next Meeting:** Tentatively May 21, 2024 @ 5:30 p.m.
77

78 *Respectfully submitted by Ruth Ashby.*