

# Topsham Energy Committee

## MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Topsham Energy Committee was held on **21 April 2026** at the Topsham Town Hall.

**In Attendance:** Committee Members Stephanie Gardner, Nick Whatley, Carl Lozon and Jackie Cressy; Mark Waltz (Town Manager), Jeff Emerson (Assistant Town Manager). A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 4:31p.m., after the video recording was started.

**The meeting was called to order at 4:31pm by NW, co-chair.**

**Invitation for Public Comment:** No response

**Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes of the 3/17/26 meeting were approved as amended; motion to accept made by SG, seconded by NW. Motion passed.

### Staff Update from MW

- Mark and staff are busy prepping for Town Meeting.
- Responding to a question from SG regarding ReCode, MW reported that there had been a meeting just that afternoon with Planning Board (PB) members and Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee (CPIC) members. A framework for how to continue moving forward with ReCode has been suggested and the process for getting all parties to agree is in place.
- When NW asked how the ordinance we are working on will be affected by ReCode, MW replied that the ordinance will be fit into whatever code is in effect at the time.
- Responding to NW's question about a possible data center looking to locate here, MW replied that there is nothing imminent happening.
- A Lisbon business is looking for a town to test a possibility of glass recycling; Ed Caron has signed Topsham up to try this.

### Old Business

- Invasive species and Natural Areas Plan collaboration with Conservation Commission

- JC reported that the Conservation Commission is willing to collaborate with the Energy Committee on the August 25 invasive plants presentation by Andrew Tufts of ME Audubon. Location will be the Town Hall meeting Room. JC will confirm date and time with AT.
  - JC and the Conservation Commission Chairperson will be meeting soon to discuss how we can collaborate and support them with the Natural Areas Plan.
  - SG raised the question of timing for getting publicity material out. JC agreed to prepare the publicity material to go into the Town ad. MW said The Town ad in the Cryer is ready by July 20th and requested that JC get material into the Town Office shortly after the July 4th weekend.
- Other education sessions to consider
    - NW has been in touch with a person at Maine Community Power Cooperative (MCPC) and expressed concern that having just this company present could be seen as advertising for them. One solution might be to offer a program on “ How to Go Solar” based on your budget. Another source of information could be the Public Advocate’s Office. The most positive aspect of MCPC is that it is the only solar vendor which has a plan for low-income people to use solar. NW will reach out again to the company to see if their presentation could encompass other ways to go solar. The tentative date for this presentation will be in July to give us time to organize and publicize it/
  - Ideas and next steps on how to spread the word about past and upcoming sessions
    - This was tabled until our May meeting.
  - Updates to EC Webinars Page on Town Website
    - Carl volunteered to update the EC webpage with descriptions of webinars
  - Battery Ordinance Working Session
    - Starting with the Maine model ordinance, we went section by section to review whether the language fit our purposes. SG screen-shared a document that she had created using the DOER guide, so that we could all follow along and made notes as we proceeded.

- At the end of the session, it was agreed that we should continue to look at this model and some others - perhaps the Massachusetts model, and make comments on the Google doc prior to our next meeting.
- VLGS Institute for Energy and the Environment (IEE) involvement
  - SG has talked with Kirt Mayfield who has indicated The IEE's willingness to support us more fully and has indicated they are in the process of getting funding. We agreed that SG should let him know that we definitely welcome his support.

### **New Business**

- Site visit to Gorham battery project. MW will reach out to Gorham to arrange for an organized site visit.

**Second Invitation for Public Comment:** No response.

### **Reminders**

- Next regular Energy Committee meeting is **19 May at 4:30pm**

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:03pm.