

Peterborough Energy Committee Minutes

May 14, 2025

Present: Trisha Cheever, Anne Huberman, Bill Kennedy, Emily Manns (chair), Bruce Tucker, Steve Walker

EVSEs

We learned that Eversource had given Nubi the wrong information about how EV charging works. Eversource letters stated that as long as his EVSE use didn't exceed 1500 kWh, they could have a meter that doesn't apply demand charges. Since we last met, Eversource has notified them that the limit is 750 kWh and has replaced the meter that didn't register demand charges with one that does.

This led to a discussion of ways to avoid demand charges for EV charging. They are looking into adding a battery to the system. They have seen advertising for a combination of solar panels and batteries for EVSEs, and they are researching that possibility.

We could even consider having a solar canopy and batteries for our Riverwalk Parking Lot EVSEs, with the possibility of using TIF funds to pay for it.

There might also be money from the CPCNH reserve fund that could be used for this purpose after the fund is established at the 2026 Town Meeting.

Another way to attack this problem could be through legislation to raise the limit on demand charges. We could invite Peter Leishman, Jonah Wheeler, and Donovan Fenton to one of our meetings to discuss legislation.

Solar on Landfills

When asked about progress on plans to put solar arrays on two Peterborough landfills, Trisha replied that the first step is to get together all of the paperwork on those landfills to ensure they have been properly capped and are ready to receive solar panels. The paperwork has to be submitted to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) for approval before the process can proceed. Unfortunately, Trisha hasn't been able to locate the financial assurance document for one of the landfills. She has heard that there may be some sort of workaround for this missing document, but she has not heard back from the DES. We urged her to pay an in-person visit to the DES.

Wastewater Treatment Plant and ConVal Solar Arrays

It occurred to us that the Wastewater Treatment Plant hasn't bought out its solar array. Apparently, it didn't make financial sense to buy it out after six years, but we think it might make sense now. Bill will ask Nicole about it when he meets with her next week.

We know that ConVal has been setting aside money each year to buy out the solar array on the High School. We would like to know how much of the electricity produced by the array is used behind the meter, and we wondered if the EVSE that ReVision supplied to ConVal was ever installed.

Next Meeting

The next Peterborough Energy Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 28 at 3:30 PM in the Select Board Room.