



## STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #: 23-68  
COUNCIL MTG OF: June 6, 2023  
FROM: Michael A. Fowler, P.E, Director of Public Works  
OFFERED BY: Michael A. Fowler, P.E, Director of Public Works  
PREPARED BY: Michael A. Fowler, P.E, Director of Public Works  
SUBJECT: Formation of Derry Community Power Subcommittee

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**PURPOSE:** Formal Town Council designation of a Derry Community Power Subcommittee is requested to proceed further toward Town wide electricity aggregation.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:** The Town Council is urged to adopt this Resolution which would authorize continuation of efforts to provide community members with an opportunity to save on their utility bills.

**BACKGROUND:** The Net Zero Task Force is moving forward with efforts to bring Community Power to Derry. Community Power is a synonym for an electricity aggregation program administered by through the Town of Derry which will provide residents an opportunity to access competitive electricity rates which may be less expensive than default rates offered by Eversource and three other utility companies that service Derry. Community Power has been rolled out in Keene and Lebanon, while several other communities are in the process of starting their plans.

There are several steps in the process required to make this happen, pursuant to enabling legislation RSA 53-E. There are specific tasks laid out in RSA 53-E:6 that a subcommittee will be required to complete such as public outreach and plan development prior to submission to the Town Council for approval. The Net Zero Task Force is working with a consultant to create a plan similar to an earlier program initiated in Keene. A resident survey process is underway in early June and the goal would be to have the Town Council review and endorse the final electricity aggregation plan in September 2023 to allow pricing to be solicited in October/November 2023. It is anticipated that residents will have several options for greener blends of electricity coupled with pricing for each option.

**DISCUSSION:** A subcommittee was formed from NetZero Task Force membership at their 3/16/23 meeting. However, in reading the context of RSA 53-E:6, it appears that a Derry Community Power Subcommittee should be formed and endorsed by the governing body (i.e. Town Council) to assure that all steps are followed pursuant to the statutory language.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** No fiscal impact currently as subcommittee is comprised of citizen volunteers and staff. Eventually, the electricity cost savings could be significant to individual property owners in Derry.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommend that the Town Council officially form the Derry Community Power Subcommittee, to report to the Net Zero Task Force.

**MOTION:** See **Attached Resolution #2023-043**

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# RESOLUTION

Number 2023-043

To Designate the Net Zero Task Force as Derry's Community Power Subcommittee

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WHEREAS, Section 5.1 of the Town Charter vests in the Town Council the powers of the legislative and governing bodies; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council received a presentation recently on the potential opportunities for citizens with the enactment of RSA 53-E, known as the Community Power Act; and

WHEREAS, the Net Zero Task Force has formed a subcommittee to investigate those opportunities; and

WHEREAS, RSA 53-E:6 authorizes the Governing Body to form an electric aggregation committee to develop a plan for an aggregation program for its citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED IN COUNCIL that the Town Council hereby designates the Net Zero Task Force as the Electric Aggregation Committee to investigate cost savings opportunities for Derry residents and businesses.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

Adopted: June 6, 2023

Attest:

X \_\_\_\_\_

Charles Foote, Council Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

X \_\_\_\_\_

Cristina Guilford, Town Clerk

Date: \_\_\_\_\_