



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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DRAFT

ENERGY COMMITTEE – MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, September 6, 2023, 7:00 p.m., Syd Crook Conference Room

Committee Members Present: Viggo Fish, Jamie Hess, Lisa Hess, David Paradis, Tim Paradis, Robin Rainie-Lobacz.

Committee Members Absent: Peter Vedova

Guests Present: John Ellis, Karen Epstein, Rich Epstein

Meeting called to order by Jamie at 7:00 PM.

Brief description of matters discussed and votes taken (if any):

1. Minutes: Approval of the August meeting minutes was deferred until the next regular meeting.

2. Subcommittee Reports: There were no subcommittee meetings in the past month.

3. New London Community Power: Jamie reported that the next step in the Community Power launch sequence is for the Selectmen to approve the Cost Sharing Agreement at their September 14th meeting. Jamie will attend. Meanwhile, the NH Public Utilities Commission is expected to approve our Electric Aggregation Plan later this month. If the current timeline holds, a public information session will be held in mid-December, a direct mailing will be sent to New London residents in January, and Community Power will launch in February.

4. Renewable Energy Goals: We have a Town Meeting-approved goal of 100% renewable electricity by the year 2030. So far we have achieved approximately 40% thanks to arrays at the Sewer and Highway Departments. A possible next step is solarizing the Fire Station roof; it will need to take place in two phases and will add another 10% once both phases are complete. To contribute the remaining 50%, Viggo suggested siting a single large array on a parcel of vacant town-owned land. Tim will meet with Town Planner Adam Ricker to discuss using town-owned land for a solar expansion. Tim will report back to the full committee via email.

Jamie reported that Public Works Director Bob Harrington had inquired about acquiring a commercial-sized electric lawnmower. Viggo and Robin will to research price and availability.

The Energy Efficiency Capital Reserve Fund now has a balance of \$105,000. These funds are

tentatively earmarked for the purchase of the Sewer and Highway Department solar arrays, which are now owned by outside investors. This year's contribution of \$15,000 to the fund, if continued on an annual basis, will be insufficient to finance the purchase of these arrays when we receive an Option to Buy in FY2026. The Committee discussed making a recommendation to increase the annual contribution to \$45,000 or \$50,000 for the next three years, in order to fully fund the purchase. No decision was made.

5. Meeting Schedule: The next two meetings will be Wednesday, October 4th at 7pm (Tim will chair) and Wednesday, November 8th at 5:30pm (Jamie will chair). The Committee discussed changing the meeting location from the Syd Crook Room to Whipple Hall, but no decision was made..

Tim Paradis motioned to adjourn the meeting. Robin Rainie-Lobacz seconded. The meeting ended at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Hess

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