



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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DRAFT

ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, January 3, 2024, **5:30 p.m.**, Syd Crook Conference Room

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

Committee Members Via Zoom: Viggo Fish,

Guests Present: John Ellis, Rich Epstein, Jim Flanagan

Meeting called to order by Jamie at 5:38 PM.

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

1. **Approval of October and December meeting minutes:** Peter motioned to approve October minutes and Robin seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously. David motioned to approve December minutes and Robin seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.
2. **Subcommittee updates:** Subcommittees did not meet in December.
3. **New London Community Power (NLCP) update:** Discussion regarding the final steps to make NLCP official. A public information session will be held January 31, 2024 at 7pm at Whipple Hall. The Energy Committee will provide a short presentation with a slide deck of information. Questions and answers to follow. Upon completion of the public information session, Community Power will be authorized to launch in March 2024.

Jamie discussed the December 21st Community Power meeting where the default rates were announced. All eight communities eligible for launch chose to do so and not defer. Rates will be 2% less than Eversource for the six months of February thru July 2024. Typically the rate difference will be higher than 2%; however, Eversource is required to refund overcharging customers during a six-month period in 2023. The repayment mandated by the PUC will be refunded through discounted supply rates. Jamie noted that Community Power's new rate is significantly better by 15-20% compared to other New Hampshire utilities.

Tim suggested we add a link to Community Power on the Energy Committee webpage.

Robin suggested we find out if Community Power received data from Eversource for customers using third-party suppliers, who are automatically opted out, so they can be aware of this and join

later if desired.

The committee fielded several questions from meeting guests in attendance.

4. **Municipal Solar Expansion:** Jamie traded emails with Bob Brown on the Conservation Committee. Bob reported back on our request for their committee to identify potential Solar sites on Town land. Three parcels were identified:
A) Frothingham Road
B and C) Mountain Road.

In addition to these sites, we have already identified the Fire Station roof and the Stump Dump as other potential sites. If each of these five sites were able to produce 50 kilowatts or approximately 12% of the town's consumption, we could potentially achieve our goal of 100% renewable electricity..

5. **Energy Conservation Capital Reserve Fund:** Discussion revolved around how to present our request to the Selectmen at their January 4, 2024 meeting. The Energy Committee will request a Capital Reserve contribution of \$82,500 per year for two years. Also, the Committee will ask for direction on how to achieve the goal of 100% renewable electricity supply for our town facilities. At current pricing, the Energy Committee has estimated that an investment of \$990,000 in additional solar arrays will be necessary to achieve this goal.

Tim Paradis moved to adjourn the meeting. Robin Rainie-Lobacz seconded. Meeting ended at 6:54pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Vedova

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