



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

375 MAIN STREET • NEW LONDON, NH 03257 • WWW.NL-NH.COM

DRAFT

ENERGY COMMITTEE – MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, February 7, 2024, **5:30 p.m.**, Syd Crook Conference Room

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

Committee Members Absent: Viggo Fish, Peter Vedova

Guests Present: John Ellis, Karen Epstein, Rich Epstein; Anna White, Colby-Sawyer College

Meeting called to order by Jamie at 5:30 PM.

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

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

2. Appointment with Anna White, Colby-Sawyer College: Jamie introduced Anna White, who is employed by AmeriCorps, and is working on sustainability issues at CSC. Her role is to host educational events on campus and to conduct home energy assessments in the community. Jamie suggested the NHSaves.com website as a resource on home energy assessments. Jamie also mentioned the Energy Committee's own educational events - the E-Bike loan program and the Electric Vehicle Expo – as opportunities for collaboration between the Energy Committee and CSC. Anna informed the committee that CSC will be installing new solar panels on the new nursing building and they will soon install a second electric vehicle charging station. Jamie asked how the solar panels were being funded; Anna said she would find out and email Jamie.

3. New London Community Power: Jamie reported that there have been a small number of complaints from potential customers. Kim Hallquist received an email from a woman who complained that her mother was treated rudely by a Community Power customer service representative. Jamie also fielded a phone call from a part-time New London resident who was initially upset about Community Power, but whose fears have now been calmed. Jamie asked if other committee members would be willing to communicate with Community Power customers. All committee members present offered to help.

4. Municipal Solar: The Energy Conservation Capital Reserve Fund has a current balance of approximately \$135,000. Tim and Lisa advocated putting these funds toward the purchase of the two investor-owned municipal solar arrays in fiscal year 2026. This purchase could require as

much as \$300,000. Unfortunately it will not be possible to put additional money into the capital reserve this year, but the Selectmen have made a verbal commitment to raise the necessary funds in time to make the purchase.

Robin asked if it is still a priority to put solar panels on the Fire Station roof. Jamie reported that the fire station roof is suitable for 30 kilowatts of solar now, at an estimated cost of \$100,000, with an additional 20 kilowatts to be installed following a proposed remodeling project to take place within the next decade.

Jamie mentioned that a new municipal solar array could be sited at the Stump Dump, and there could be synergies with a proposed water supply expansion project at the New London-Springfield Water Precinct, since both projects will require three-phase electrical power.

5. Solar at the Sunapee Wastewater Treatment Plant: Jamie reported that New London sewer users pay two-thirds of the plant's operating cost, and the biggest line item is electricity. Selectman Janet Kidder asked Jamie to accompany her on a site visit to the plant. Jamie stated the goal is install solar in such a way that New London and Sunapee sewer users all save money. We will be hearing more about this initiative in the near future.

6. Electric Vehicle Expo: Jamie stated the Energy Committee has to decide whether to continue the tradition of hosting our biennial Electric Vehicle Expo again this year. Jamie made a motion to reserve a date at the New London Historical Society, with the opportunity to cancel if needed. Robin seconded. Approved unanimously.

7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Hess

All Town of New London public meetings are accessible for persons with disabilities. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate persons with physical, emotional or sensory disabilities. Any person who believes he or she may be unable to participate in a Town of New London public meeting should contact the Town at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Please contact the Town Office at 526-4821, ext. 242.