



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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DRAFT

ENERGY COMMITTEE – MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, March 6, 2024, **5:30 p.m.**, Syd Crook Conference Room

Committee Members Present: Jamie Hess, Lisa Hess, Peter Vedova, Tim Paradis, Viggo Fish

Committee Members Absent: David Paradis, Robin Rainie-Lobacz

Guests Present: John Ellis, Rich Epstein, Jim Flanagan, David Harris, Petrina Markowitz; Anna White, Colby-Sawyer College

Meeting called to order by Jamie at 5:33 PM.

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

1. Meeting Minutes: The February minutes were approved by unanimous consent. 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 Colby-Sawyer. Anna announced that Colby-Sawyer will be hosting an NHSaves ‘Button Up Workshop’ on May 2nd at 6:30pm in the Adventures In Learning classroom, with Ted Stiles as the presenter. Topics include home energy efficiency and weatherization. By unanimous consent, the Committee agreed to co-sponsor the workshop and help with publicity.

3. Electric Bicycle Loan Program: The Committee discussed possible locations to host this year’s program. The dates of the program are not yet known.

4. Electric Vehicle Expo: Jamie has reserved the New London Historical Society for Sunday, September 29th. The cost of renting the facility is \$200 or less. Tim suggested scaling back the Expo from previous years, and volunteered to come up with ways to do so. Viggo suggested that this year’s Expo should focus on lower-priced electric cars, and we should invite more auto dealers instead of relying on individual car owners to show off their cars. Jim Flanagan advocated showcasing electric lawn and garden equipment and including those products in the raffle. John Ellis volunteered to solicit donations for the raffle, and he also offered to contact local auto dealers and encourage them to attend our event. Jamie offered to recruit volunteers from other events in the area including Lebanon and Andover. Further discussion will take place at the April meeting.

5. New London Community Power: Automatic enrollment of all accounts on Eversource default service, except those with solar panels, will take place this month. Jamie reminded customers with solar net metering to check their April bill from Eversource to make sure they have not been inadvertently enrolled in Community Power.

6. Municipal Solar: Jamie reported the results of the annual ‘true-up’ performed by Barrington Power, the owner of our municipal solar arrays. The true-up revealed that solar production in 2023 was down from the prior year, due to an abundance of clouds and rain during the top solar production months of June and July. As a result, the Town overpaid for solar in 2023 and we will be receiving a refund of approximately \$2000.

Jim Flanagan suggested that a municipal solar expansion could take place on undeveloped land owned or protected by the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust. Jim volunteered to pursue this possibility.

7. Solar at the Sunapee Wastewater Treatment Plant: Jamie reported that the #1 goal of installing solar is to produce savings for New London and Sunapee sewer users, including municipal facilities in both towns. In addition to proposals already received from Revision and Santa Energy, Norwich Solar will be submitting a competing proposal. Jamie reported that the Sunapee ad hoc solar committee meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 3:00pm and he invited committee members to attend.

David Harris asked if Sunapee is considering generating electricity from methane at the plant. Jamie asked if wastewater treatment plants produce sufficient quantities of methane to make a generation plant cost-effective. David offered to research this question.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Hess

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