



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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DRAFT

ENERGY COMMITTEE – MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, May 1, 2024, **7:00 p.m.**, Syd Crook Conference Room

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

Committee Members Absent: Lisa Hess, Peter Vedova, Tim Paradis

Guests Present: Selectman Bill Helm, John Ellis

Meeting called to order by Jamie at 7:05 PM.

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

1. Approval of Minutes: April 2024 minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

2. Municipal Solar Financing Options: Selectman Bill Helm initiated a discussion on two questions: (a) How to buy out the investors who currently own our two municipal solar arrays, and (b) How achieve our municipal goal of 100% renewable electricity by the year 2030.

Discussion on item (a) revolved around when to conduct a fair market value appraisal of the arrays, and when to present a funding request to the town in order to complete the buyout as close as possible to January 2026. The decision was made to have an appraisal done before the end of 2024 and bring a funding request to Town Meeting in March of 2025. A Yes vote would make the funding available in Fiscal Year 2026 to enable a buyout in January 2026.

Discussion on item (b) initially focused on the Fire Station, the Stump Dump and the Mountain Road landfill as sites for a municipal solar expansion. However, the feasibility of solar on the Fire Station roof was called into question because of a proposed renovation, which leaves the resulting roof configuration undetermined. Meanwhile, the Stump Dump and the Mountain Road landfill both lack three-phase power. Viggo will contact Eversource and attempt to obtain cost estimates to bring three-phase power to those locations. If the cost is prohibitive, we will investigate other parcels of town-owned land.

3. CPCNH Update: New London Community Power has gone ‘live’, and residents are encouraged to check their most recent power bills to be sure energy is being supplied by the correct entity, i.e. Community Power versus Eversource.

4. Sunapee Wastewater Treatment Plant: Presently the Sunapee solar committee is negotiating with two potential installers. One is offering a PPA only, while the other is offering either a PPA or a purchase. They are awaiting a proposal from a third installer.

5. E-bike Loan Program: The dates are July 17-24. Audrey and Justin from Sunapee E-Bikes have agreed to host the program again. This is a safer location than Whipple Hall for test rides.

6. Electric Vehicle Expo: The date is Sunday, September 29. Volunteers and attendees are already pre-registering online. Sunapee E-Bikes has offered to bring bikes to the Expo

7. Subcommittee Reports: No meetings were held in the past month.

8. Other Business: John Ellis agreed to reach out to the Bike-Pedestrian Advisory Committee to explore the potential for future cooperative ventures.

9. Next Meeting: The Committee agreed to change the dates of the next two meetings. The June meeting will be held **May 29** at 7:00pm, and the July meeting will be held **July 10** at 7:00 pm.

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Rainie-Lobacz

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