



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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ENERGY COMMITTEE – MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, May 29, 2024, 7:00 p.m., Syd Crook Conference Room

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

Guests Present: Bob Bowers, John Ellis, Karen Epstein, Rich Epstein

Meeting called to order by Jamie at 7:03 PM.

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

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

2. Planning for E-Bike Loan Program: Robin reported that Sunapee Ebikes & More is going out of business. They were our 2023 host location. John will ask if they're closing before July 24th, and if so, he will contact Recreation Director Putnam Kidder to request permission to use Whipple Hall.

3. Planning for Electric Vehicle Expo: Jamie thanked Robin for recruiting her neighbors' Rivian SUV for the Expo. Jamie suggested continuing the tradition of marching in the Hospital Days Parade to publicize the Expo. Committee members unanimously agreed to participate in the parade. Recruitment of affordably-priced EVs for the Expo will begin in July. A mobile EV charging unit, a set of Rivian floor mats, and an electric lawn & garden tool have been donated to the raffle. A discussion on soliciting additional raffle items was postponed until July.

4. Financing and siting options for municipal solar: Buyout of the two existing solar arrays will likely cost more than originally anticipated. Our current best guess is \$324,000. If we use town funds to make the purchase, instead of borrowing, our investment will yield an estimated 11% return in our first year of ownership, in part because the Town will gain the ability to generate and sell Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) on the open market.

Jamie explained that the Town will receive an option to buy the arrays on or about January 1, 2026. A discussion ensued on the merits of requesting spending authority in March 2025 (for fiscal year 2026) versus waiting until March 2026 (for fiscal year 2027). Bob Bowers and John Ellis advocated approaching the Budget Committee and Selectmen this year rather than next. Tim Paradis pointed out that if a new President is elected in November, he may seek to repeal the solar incentives that are currently in place.

Regarding siting of new municipal arrays, Jamie thinks the Transfer Station site has two acres of available land. John Ellis and Bob Bowers noted that the Transfer Station site is severely

constrained, and that outgoing Public Works Director Bob Harrington is not in favor of installing solar on that site. John suggested inviting Bob and his successor Sam Clarke to our next meeting to discuss solar siting options. Other sites under discussion include the Stump Dump, Highway Garage, Fire Station and the closed landfill on Mountain Road.

5. Subcommittee Meetings: No meetings were held in the past month. The Education & Outreach Subcommittee will meet July 2nd. The Efficiency & Renewables Subcommittee will meet July 9th.

6. Other Business: Jamie will contact Greg Ames to get instructions on reprogramming the solar monitor at the Town Office Building..

7. Next Meeting: The July meeting will be held **July 10** at 7:00 pm.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Rainie-Lobacz

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