



TOWN OF  
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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ENERGY COMMITTEE – MEETING MINUTES

**Date of Meeting:** Wednesday, July 10, 2024, **7:00 p.m.**, Syd Crook Conference Room

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

**Committee Members Absent:** Viggo Fish, Lisa Hess

**Guests Present:** 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 May 29th meeting minutes:** Action was postponed until August.
- 2. Municipal Solar Site updates:** Jamie provided an update on the subcommittee meeting with Bob Harrington and Sam Clarke from the Public Works Department. Of the five sites being considered – including the Transfer Station, Stump Dump, Mountain Road Landfill, Fire Station Roof, and Sewer Department – the Stump Dump site was Bob's top choice. He did not recommend the Transfer Station, as there are significant changes under consideration for the near future.
- 3. NH DOE Municipal Solar Grant Update:** Applications must be submitted by August 1, 2024. A site visit with Eric Kilens from Granite State Solar has been scheduled for July 11th at the stump dump. The Committee is scheduled to meet with the Selectmen on July 24th to inform them about the grant and ask them to sign a letter of support for the application. State Representative Karen Ebel has agreed to sign a letter of support. A work session will be held July 24th to continue working on the application.
- 4. Discussion regarding maintenance of solar arrays.** Karen Epstein inquired about the ongoing costs of owning solar arrays. Committee members noted the historically low cost of maintenance and minimal repairs required. Committee members with solar panels at their personal residences have not incurred any maintenance expenses to date. The existing Town arrays are owned by third party investors who are responsible for any repair and maintenance costs. The committee noted that the panels and inverters have a long warranty period, and if an existing array were purchased by the

town, the original warranty would remain in effect.

**5. Electric Bike Loan Program:** Jamie updated the committee on the program, which begins July 17th when four e-bikes will be dropped off at Whipple Hall. The bikes include two Rad Power Bikes, a Bianchi, and a Gazelle. Overnight loans are almost fully booked, but plenty of one-hour demo slots are still available.

Tim Paradis motioned to adjourn the meeting. Robin Rainie-Lobacz seconded. Meeting ended at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Peter Vedova

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