



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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DRAFT ENERGY COMMITTEE – MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, October 2, 2024, 7:00 p.m., Whipple Memorial Hall

Committee Members & Alternates Present: David Paradis, Jamie Hess, Lisa Hess, Peter Vedova, Tim Paradis, Viggo Fish, John Ellis

Committee Members Attending Remotely: Robin Rainie-Lobacz

Guests Present: Ella Doherty, Karen Epstein, Rich Epstein

Meeting called to order by Jamie at 7:02 PM.

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

1. Approval of Minutes: The September meeting minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

2. Introduction of Ella Doherty, Climate Action Leader at Colby-Sawyer College: Ella succeeds Anna White, whose assignment ended at the end of July. Ella's assignment began September 23rd and runs through July 31, 2025. She plans to focus on renewable energy and sustainability and hopes to get Colby-Sawyer students involved in projects both on and off campus. She is open to any suggestions we may have.

3. Report on Electric Vehicle Expo: Approximately 250 people attended the Expo. Jamie reported that we had 16 makes, 26 models, and a total of 34 vehicles total, with a focus on affordably-priced models and alternatives to Tesla. A number of suggestions were made regarding future editions of the Expo:

- (a) David suggested shortening the Expo to three hours instead of four.
- (b) Tim suggested holding raffle drawing every 30 minutes instead of waiting until the end.
- (c) Peter suggested focusing on EV charging, including a presentation on the topic.
- (d) Robin suggested holding the Expo at a different time of year instead of during NDEW.
- (e) John suggested inviting three speakers to each give a 15-minute presentation.
- (f) Several members suggested moving the registration and raffle tables to a pinch point between the parking lot and the exhibits, in order to capture more registrations.

4. Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire: Jamie reported that Sullivan County has become a member of the Coalition, and that the Town of Sunapee is close to approving the Joint Powers Agreement. The Coalition is on track to reach \$100 million in electricity sales for calendar year 2024, and it has already provided more than \$10 million in savings to New Hampshire ratepayers in its first 18 months.

5. Hilltop Place solar project: Jamie reported that a recent structure fire at Hilltop Place has caused a huge increase insurance premiums, and a special assessment of \$1500 has been levied on each resident to pay the added expense. As a result, the Hilltop solar committee is reluctant to ask residents at this time to pay an additional amount to finance the solar project. Jamie encouraged them to ask anyway, in order to gauge the level of community support for the project.

6. New London Municipal Solar: The Committee is awaiting word from the New Hampshire Department of Energy on our grant application for a solar array at the Stump Dump. The Mountain Road capped landfill is also a promising site for solar. Measurements are needed to determine the cost of extending single-phase power to the site.

7. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held November 6th at 5:30 p.m.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Hess

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