



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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DRAFT

ENERGY COMMITTEE — MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: November 6, 2024, 5:30 PM, Kearsarge Professional Development Center

Committee Members Present: Jamie Hess, Robin Rainie-Lobacz, Peter Vedova, John Ellis, Tim Paradis

Committee Members Absent: David Paradis, Lisa Hess

Guests Present: Colin Beasley, Rich Epstein

Jamie called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

Brief description of subject matters discussed & final decisions (votes) taken (if any):

1. Minutes

- **Approval of October minutes:**
 - Motion by Robin; seconded by Peter. All in favor.

2. Community Power Coalition Updates

- **12-Month Fixed Rate Plan:**
 - Allows municipalities to secure a known electricity price for the fiscal year.
 - Rate: 8.9¢ per kWh effective January 1, 2025, to January 1, 2026.
 - Joinable on either January 1st or July 1st, coinciding with fiscal years.
- **Discretionary Adder:**
 - Allows adding a specific amount to the kilowatt-hour rate to fund local projects.
 - Nashua collects \$30,000 a month; New London could collect about \$2,000.
 - Adopted by one city (Nashua), two towns (Canterbury and Peterborough), and one county (Cheshire County).
 - Adder ranges from 0.1¢ to 0.7¢ per kWh.
- **100% Renewable Electricity:**
 - New offering expected in about a year.

- Current option: “Green 100” power at 12¢ per kWh.
- Future option: Group net metering with a new 5 MW solar array.

3. Sunapee Wastewater Treatment Facility Solar Plans

- Sunapee issued an RFP for a solar array at the wastewater treatment plant.
- Two interested bidders, including Revision Energy and Santa Energy.
- Aims to reduce electricity costs, helping New London.

4. Solar Development in New London

- **Discussed six potential locations for new solar installations:**
 - Stump dump (NHDOE grant application submitted; awaiting response).
 - Capped landfill on Mountain Road.
 - Fire station roof (pending agreement on remodeling plans).
 - Transfer station (to be included in any future design plans).
 - Expand existing arrays at the highway department and water department.
- **Capital Reserve Fund:**
 - Initially intended for buying out existing arrays owned by outside investors.
 - Discussion on whether to use it for buyout or new installations.
- **Financial Considerations and Analysis:**
 - Colin Beasley emphasized the need for a financial analysis to determine the best use of reserves.
 - Considerations include:
 - ROI comparison between buying out existing arrays and installing new ones.
 - Impact of potential energy efficiency improvements on costs.
 - Evaluating alternatives such as joining Community Power offerings.

5. Colby-Sawyer College Developments

- New nursing building with rooftop solar panels and four new EV charging stalls.
- Charging stations are ChargePoint units, costing \$34,000 installed.

Additional Comments:

- The need for clarity on solar buyout terms and financial implications was highlighted.
- Discussion on potential conservation efforts and electrification of town equipment as future considerations.

Meeting Actions:

- **Efficiency & Renewables Subcommittee:**
 - Tasked with conducting a financial analysis of solar investments and alternatives.
 - Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 13th, at 8:30 AM.

Next Meeting:

- Wednesday, December 4, 2024, 5:30 p.m., Kearsarge Professional Development Center

Adjournment:

- John motioned to adjourn; Peter seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Paradis