



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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ENERGY COMMITTEE – MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 7:00 p.m., Whipple Hall

Committee Members Present: Jamie Hess, Lisa Hess, David Paradis, Tim Paradis, Viggo Fish

Committee Members Absent: Peter Vedova, Robin Rainie-Lobacz

Committee Alternates Present: John Ellis, Meredith Smith

Guests Present: Tom Hamlin, Adam Kobayashi, Allan & Marie MacDonald, Beth Williams

Meeting called to order by Jamie at 7:00 PM.

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

1. **Approval of January & February meeting minutes:** Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.
2. **Energy Conservation Capital Reserve Fund update:** Article 12 on the Town Meeting warrant provides an appropriation of \$100,000 for the Capital Reserve. When added to the current balance of \$111,000, the fund balance will increase to \$211,000, which will make it possible to move forward on the next two municipal solar projects.
3. **Update on Stump Dump and Mountain Road solar arrays:**
 - (a) Two identical 100kW AC arrays are planned. The Committee has obtained a soft quote from Revision Energy for \$415,000 per array.
 - (b) Site preparation requirements include an Eversource utility line extension and the installation of a 600-amp electrical service. Total sitework cost is estimated at \$21,000.
 - (c) Financial structure: For each array, a 20% deposit (\$83,000) will be required. Including the required sitework, the initial outlay will be \$104,000 (\$21,000 plus \$83,000). The Town will then have a four-year window to complete the project and obtain a 30% federal incentive rebate.
 - (d) Permitting status: Only two state regulations may potentially apply - Alteration of Terrain, and Wetlands. Viggo confirmed that no consultation with NHDES will be needed, due to the small size of each project. Town permits will be routine and straightforward, in the Town Planner's opinion.
 - (e) Contract negotiations: The Town's insurer must review any solar contract. Viggo has sent Jamie a draft contract with suggested redlines. Key issues to negotiate are liability limits, dispute resolution, and termination rights.
 - (f) The Eversource contract for 74 Old Dump Road is ready for signature.

4. **Education & Outreach Subcommittee report:**

- (a) Electric Vehicle Expo: Rename to 'Energy and Environment Expo'. Expand beyond EVs to include energy efficiency, waste reduction and other environment-related topics. Proposed dates are September 12, 13, 19 or 20 at Historical Society. Beth volunteered to help organize; Adam suggested NHSaves participation.
- (b) E-bike loan program: Operated for four consecutive years (2021-2024) but not in 2025. Awaiting Vital Communities response on restarting the program.
- (c) Earth Week Environmental Expo at Colby-Sawyer College: Scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 5:30-7:30pm, in Colgate Hall. The Energy Committee has committed to staffing a table at the Expo. Display materials will include Fire Station solar array photos, energy savings data, and Community Power handouts.
- (d) Sustainability awareness campaign: The goal is to build support for the Town's 2030 sustainability goals and a possible future bond issue. A multi-pronged approach will be planned beginning after Town Meeting. Meredith and Tom will lead the effort.
- (e) Website and Facebook updates: Jamie and Lisa will update the Energy Committee webpage and Facebook page, using content from Municipal Matters articles among other sources. The Committee currently has 150 followers on Facebook.

5. Other Business:

- (a) Community Power update: Community Power rates are currently 20% higher than Eversource, but Liberty Utilities' rates are now higher than Community Power.
- (b) Committee membership and reappointments: Lisa, Jamie and Viggo have terms expiring this month. All three confirmed reappointment interest. Tom Hamlin and Adam Kobayashi will be considered for appointment as alternates.
- (c) C-PACER update: State legislation is pending to simplify adoption of this initiative. Besides New London, 30 other municipalities are awaiting the legislative outcome.
- (d) Solar monitor at town office: Frequent malfunctions require daily unplugging and replugging. Jamie will contact Greg Ames about troubleshooting.
- (e) New Eversource storage battery program: A 50% incentive, up to \$200,000, is now available for municipal battery projects. Requirements are (1) designation of the municipal building as an emergency shelter, and (2) enrollment in Eversource's demand response program. A website with full details will launch soon.

Action Items:

- (a) Jamie: Request a formal proposal from Revision Energy.
- (b) Jamie: Ask Board of Selectmen to approve Eversource contract for 74 Old Dump Road.
- (c) Jamie: Contact Greg Ames about solar monitor repairs.
- (d) Meredith & Tom: Lead sustainability outreach effort.
- (e) Jamie & Lisa: Update town webpage and Facebook page.
- (f) Full Committee: Place new member appointments on April 1st meeting agenda.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 1, 2026, 7:00 pm, Whipple Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Paradis

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