



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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FINAL

ENERGY COMMITTEE — MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: March 3, 2021, 5:30 PM, Virtual Meeting via Zoom -
<https://zoom.us/j/5079883436> or (646) 558-8656, Meeting ID 5079883436

Committee Members Present: Jamie Hess, Greg Ames, Peter Vedova, Tim Paradis, Lisa Hess, David Paradis, Gerry Gold, Viggo Fish

Committee Members Absent: Margie Weathers, Dave Harris, Bud Dick

Guests: Joe Kubit

Meeting called to order by Jamie at 5:36 PM.

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

- 1. Approval of February meeting minutes** – Jamie has some comments that he will pass to Greg after the meeting. Approval deferred to April.
- 2. Report from Education & Outreach Subcommittee** – Lisa posted information on HB 549 (see description next paragraph) to Facebook. The post was reposted by other regional energy committees. Peter reported that the subcommittee drafted a job description for the summer internship position, which was submitted to Jen Tockman at Colby-Sawyer. He is also creating an account to post on Colby-Sawyer's intranet. Jamie encouraged the Committee to offer content for the Facebook page. The Subcommittee is also planning updates to the Town website and a possible article in Municipal Matters. The subcommittee plans to meet on March 17th at 8:30am.
- 3. Report from Efficiency & Renewables Subcommittee** – The subcommittee discussed HB 549 (which will limit weatherization activities for customers who do not heat with electricity by restricting the use of the system benefits charge on electricity bills). Passage of this bill would likely cost jobs in the weatherization industry in New Hampshire. Jamie will draft a letter from the Committee to our State Senator in opposition of the bill. The Subcommittee

also discussed HB 315, which will dramatically reduce the feasibility of, and likely eliminate, Community Choice Aggregations and Community Power within New Hampshire. There was a brief discussion of the municipal solar arrays. The Highway Department Array has been covered in snow and has had limited production. The ground mount array is shedding snow due to the steeper pitch, but earlier unusually heavy rains appear to have resulted in high demand charges due to pump usage. The subcommittee plans to meet on March 24th at 8:30am.

- 4. Electric Bicycle Loan Program** – Jamie confirmed that New London has been invited to participate in the Upper Valley E-Bike Library for much of October. In return, the Upper Valley E-Bike Library has asked for a contribution of \$200 to defray costs. Other towns have used a combination of demo days (when multiple people can try the bikes in a short period of time) and longer-term loans to individuals. David moved that the Committee allocate \$200 of its \$450 budget towards the e-bike library. Peter seconded, approved unanimously.
- 5. Summer Internship Opportunity** – Covered above in Education and Outreach Subcommittee report.
- 6. Conversation with Hannaford Supermarkets** – Jamie had a Zoom conversation with two employees of Hannaford, Peter Monegal, Hannaford New London manager and George Parmenter, Hannaford Manager of Sustainability (at headquarters in Maine), along with Andrew Cockerill (Newbury Energy Committee) and Joy Kubit (Kearsarge Climate Action). Hannaford is working on several sustainability projects, including plastic & styrofoam reduction, cardboard recycling, LED lighting upgrades, and installing doors on freezers and refrigerators. They are participating in several megawatt-scale community solar programs, but they are not aware of any NH community solar opportunities. Jamie discussed the New London municipal arrays. Are they interested in single solar sites at each store, or a larger central solar site using net metering? There was no discussion of the possibility of adding EV charging at the New London store, but Jamie hopes to bring it up at the next meeting.
- 7. Other business** – Will we have an EV show this year? Following our odd year, Upper Valley; even year, New London approach it is currently the Upper Valley's turn. However, it may not happen due to the pandemic (TBD). Bud Dick's and David Harris' terms are

expiring this year. Tim will contact Bud and David Paradis will contact David Harris to see if they want to continue on the Committee.

- 8. Next Meeting** – Wednesday, April 7, 2021, 7:00 PM (note new time), Syd Crook Conference Room or Zoom (TBD).
- 9. Meeting Adjournment** – Tim moved to adjourn; Lisa seconded. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Ames