



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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FINAL

ENERGY COMMITTEE — MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: April 7, 2021, 7:00 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, Viggo Fish

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

Guests: None

Meeting called to order by Jamie at 7:06 PM.

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

- 1. Approval of February and March meeting minutes** – Tim moved to approve the February and March meeting minutes as presented. Peter seconded, approved unanimously.
- 2. Report from Education & Outreach Subcommittee** – The committee’s primary news is on the summer internship. Peter said the focus was on trying to advertise a job for the summer internship at Colby-Sawyer College. After much work, the committee was able to post the job description to the Colby-Sawyer system for listing internship opportunities. We received one applicant. Several committee members are scheduled to interview this applicant on Friday, April 9, via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. The student is an environmental science major; he will be a rising senior. Peter expects he will be a solid candidate based on the application.

Jamie would like help managing the intern and coming up with a list of assignments. Jamie would also like help guiding the intern through those assignments, given that the intern may not have prior training in the tasks.

The subcommittee has come up with a list of potential tasks for the intern. One of the major projects is working through/analyzing the true-up for the solar power purchase agreement by

reviewing electric bills and solar output. We need to study the PPA to see whether there is any exclusive language about when the true-up takes place.

Other ideas include studying the return on investment of converting municipal vehicles to electric, analyzing the possibility of public EV charging in town, and for advertising and working with residents on energy-saving initiatives and other efforts.

The internship must start after spring term and conclude before fall term. Last year it ran for eight weeks for a total of 160 hours. The time put in each week may vary.

Peter reiterated that it would take several of us to manage the intern. Jamie said he hopes everyone on the broader committee can contribute to this effort.

The subcommittee planned its next meeting for Friday, April 9th at 8:30am.

- 3. Federal Energy Initiatives** – Jamie discussed some of the solar initiatives that could emerge under the Federal infrastructure proposals. One could allow New London, as a town, to use tax credits. Jamie shared this article: <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/tax-extenders-included-in-the-stimulus-37307/>
- 4. Report from Efficiency & Renewables Subcommittee** – The subcommittee discussed possible future locations for solar within the Town, including the Police and Fire stations and Tracy Library. The broader group discussed various (and early) proposals for the police department to move and talked about the feasibility of putting solar panels on the library roof. The biggest problem appears to be that the library has slate roofing on part of the building, which Jamie noted could make installation difficult. The subcommittee planned its next meeting for Wednesday, April 21st at 8:30am.
- 5. Electric Bicycle Loan Program** – Currently, the E-bike loan program's calendar shows New London receiving four bicycles on Sun, October 10th, with the end date not yet confirmed. Jamie noted that New London, being new to the program this year, had limited scheduling options, since the prior participating towns had first choice of dates. Jamie asked for volunteers to help run the program. Peter, David, Tim, and Viggo offered to assist. Some things to be determined:

- Are we doing one-hour loans (“demo days”), one day, or multi-day loans? Shorter loans mean more people trying out the bikes, but more volunteer time to manage the program.
- Where would we store the bikes?
- Do we want to involve other local Towns?

We need to figure out how to get enough people to be able to use the bikes without taking up too much volunteer time for administering the program.

We discussed a variety of questions about training for using the bikes, how we will store and charge them, liability and insurance coverage (provided by the bikes’ owner), etc.

6. Summer Internship Opportunity – Covered above in Education and Outreach Subcommittee report.

7. Conversation with Hannaford Supermarkets – Jamie had a second meeting with Hannaford (Peter Monigle, Hannaford New London store manager, George Parmenter, Hannaford Manager of Sustainability, and a third Hannaford employee). Topics covered included solar, energy efficiency, and EV charging. Since they do not own the real estate in New London (unlike many of their other stores), they will need to involve their landlord in those discussions. They are adding doors to refrigerators whenever possible (clearance in aisles may be an issue) to reduce energy usage (much of their electric usage is for refrigeration) and converting to more ozone-friendly refrigerants. One of the Hannaford representatives noted that covering the roof with solar panels would cover only 10-15% of their electric consumption at the store. Jamie expects to have a third meeting with Hannaford officials sometime later in April.

8. Other business – None

9. Next Meeting – Wednesday, May 5, 2021, 7:00 PM, Zoom.

10. Meeting Adjournment – Tim moved to adjourn; Peter seconded. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Ames