



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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ENERGY COMMITTEE – MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: January 6, 2016

Committee Members Present: Dave Harris, Jan Beardsley-Blanco, Peter Vedova, Tim Paradis
Members of the Public Present: Jamie Hess, Lisa Putnam

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

1. Minutes from the December meeting were accepted.
2. The discussion centered on two major projects: an electric vehicle charging station and the streetlight LED conversion project.
3. EV charging: Dave reported that the most desirable site would be somewhere in the parking lot of the New London Shopping Center, perhaps near MacKenna's Restaurant. In speaking with contacts in Portsmouth, N.H., Dave learned the rough cost approached about \$10,000. The group in Portsmouth was able to obtain a grant for \$5,000, which lowered the total cost to around \$7,000. Dave plans to have follow-up discussions with area business owners to gauge interest. A secondary site to the shopping center parking lot would be at the Flying Goose Restaurant & Brew Pub. This is deemed a good choice though perhaps not as ideal as the shopping center given there would be more retail establishments available to someone waiting for a charge to occur.
4. Peter reported on his efforts to finalize whether New London would be eligible for an energy-efficiency rebate from Eversource if the town were to proceed with an upgrade to its 115 streetlights.
 - a. Peter reminded those assembled that the savings would come not from a reduction in energy but rather from a reduced lease rate the town would pay Eversource for the lights. The rate would drop by about 45%. The town's annual streetlight budget is \$16,000 and therefore the savings would amount to about \$7,000 before considering savings from a less-frequent replacement of fixtures.
 - b. Peter and Tim will seek a meeting with Kim Hallquist about how to proceed and whether it is appropriate to install a "test" light to gauge effectiveness and community support.
5. Dave stated he would try to attend the town of Andover energy committee's January button-up workshop on home-heating and cooling efficiency.
 - a. Dave added the head of the state's sustainability association said she could participate in an evening event around what the organization does.

6. Dave continues to encourage committee members and others to “like” the group’s Facebook page. He also continues to welcome links to news and other items that would relate to the committee’s work.
7. Dave also offered an update of the proposal to hold an event around electric cars. One such possibility would be to participate in a larger Electric Car Week, which is a nationwide event. The energy committee could apply to host a local event sanctioned by the broader organization.
 - a. Such an event would require a volunteer to coordinate much of the legwork. This could include bringing in the chamber of commerce, Colby-Sawyer College, auto dealers and perhaps other local businesses.
 - b. The group discussed the range of automakers now offering electric vehicles. These include Nissan, BMW, Volkswagen, Mitsubishi and Tesla. It was noted Tesla has a showroom in Massachusetts.
 - c. The location for such an event could be where a proposed charging station would be. If that were to be at the New London Shopping Center, Dave noted a convenient test route exists nearby in which people could drive electric cars.
 - d. These events could be separate if a charging station installation could not occur in time.
 - e. Dave also mentioned wanting to include electric bicycles as part of the event.
 - f. Dave noted the committee would require about six people at the event to handle signing up those interested in test driving an electric vehicle or bicycle.
 - g. He also noted a private company called ChargePoint handles EV payments and some of the back-office business operations of operating charging stations.
8. Tim offered to send a draft of a letter in support of net metering to the group. This was discussed at a previous committee meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Tim Paradis