



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## ENERGY COMMITTEE APPROVED MEETING MINUTES December 4, 2013

**PRESENT:** Bill Spear (Chair), Allison Seward, Dave Harris

**ABSENT:** Margie Weathers Joan Cobb, Brian Armentrout, Alan Owens, Leigh Bears, Michael Rodriguez

Chair Spear opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

### Minutes

**IT WAS MOVED (Dave Harris) AND SECONDED (Allison Seward) to approve the minutes of November 6, 2013, as circulated. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### Button-Up Workshop

Mr. Harris said February 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm looked like the best time to have the workshop, which would be held at the library. He expected more details would be forthcoming from the person organizing the “Button-Up” lecture. Some marketing materials have already been created. Mr. Harris noted that sponsorships for this program would be essential to its success. He was informed by the organizer of the lecture that low attendance has been observed in past workshops that have had two or less sponsorships. There is no cost for sponsorship but the organization only needs to say they support the program. Chair Spear thought members of the Energy Committee should contact groups/businesses in town that would be interested in sponsoring the event. Suggested names included: The Chamber of Commerce, the Transition Town group at the college, Tom Mills (Flying Goose), Marybeth Angelli, Clarke’s Hardware, RP Johnson, League of Women Voters, Friends of Tracy Library, The Fells, The New London Historical Society, and the Andover Energy Committee. Sponsors would need to agree to have their business name associated with the program in advertising. They could be asked to make a donation of \$150. Monies collected would be used for coffee and refreshments at the event and remaining funds would be put into a “Green Fund” that would be used by the Town’s Trustees of the Trust Funds to invest dollars into Green businesses.

Ms. Seward said she would contact the Friends of Tracy Library, the Transition Town group, and the Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Weathers would be asked to contact all the realtors in town. Chair Spear would contact Tom Mills and the Andover Energy Committee. Mr. Harris would contact The Fells and the League of Women Voters. It was the hope of Chair Spear that other members would take it upon themselves to contact other businesses and groups in town to gain sponsorship.

Mr. Harris thought they should know what the upcoming workshops were going to be so they could promote the entire series at the first workshop.

There was discussion of having house tours be part of the workshop series. Ms. Seward said that most people can’t afford to make the extensive energy-saving changes that have been done in Mr. Harris’ home and that might discourage people from thinking of ways they could incorporate green initiatives into their own homes. Mr. Harris suggested it could be a chance for him to share where the best dollar was spent, as well as the mistakes he made in his own energy saving efforts, and things that worked for him. Chair Spear suggested a video tour or slide-show may work well in this forum. Ms. Seward said they could

have a panel of people there who could give examples of what they have done and how long it takes/would take them to recoup their investments. It was thought perhaps Tom Mills might participate, as well as Chair Spear and Mr. Harris. Ms. Seward offered that her brother, Mike Reeve, had recently put solar in for hot water and could be on the panel. Mr. Harris knew of someone who is currently doing a lot of work on his home himself (old King Ridge Lodge) and would be a good person to have come and explain his perspective on how to make these energy-saving changes.

#### Street Lighting

Chair Spear said Mr. Harris read in the Intertown Record that the Selectmen are concerned with the lighting on Main Street and that it is too dim. Mr. Harris thought the lighting was sufficient and perhaps the driving conditions at the time of the complaint were to blame. He thought students should be asked to wear reflective clothing when walking at night.

Chair Spear said he and Mr. Harris went for a drive at night for an hour and a half to check out the lighting. Their general feeling was that Main Street was OK. Newport Road had some dark areas as there is just one light between Springledge and the VNA area. They were generally satisfied with the side streets and found there were actually a few lights that could be taken out. On Parkside Road between Main Street and the Outing Club there were three lights that were not near any intersection. It seemed odd that they were there at all. Barrett Road had a light in front of a barn but there were no houses nearby. They generally felt good about the lighting in town. Chair Spear thought the Selectmen were concerned with the lumens and not kilowatts, as was noted in the Intertown Record. He felt the lighting they have now is up to standard.

Chair Spear said he spoke to PSNH about what it would take to upgrade to LED bulbs, which would cut usage and still give decent lighting. There is a light at the Kearsarge Valley Road intersection which is LED and is very bright. He was told there are no grants available for this upgrade and it would have to be paid for by the town. It is the same rate in electricity regardless of the type of bulb. Chair Spear was told that PSNH plans to propose a new rate for LED lights very soon. He thought that if/when this proposal was accepted that the New London Energy Committee could come forward to the Selectman with a proposal of its own to upgrade the lighting to LED and realize a cost savings at the same time. He is waiting for the Town Office to provide account numbers that would enable PSNH to provide a breakdown of the energy usage in the town with business and residential costs separated. They hoped to use this information to determine how savings could be realized.

Ms. Seward recalled that the Street Light Committee, of which Jack Harrod was part of, had suggested that more lights could have been removed but were not removed because the Police Department wanted them there for safety reasons.

An update was provided by Kristy Heath that she believed the lighting concern mentioned in the Select Board meeting was related to Seaman's Road at the intersection with Cottage Lane. This will be discussed at the next meeting and appropriate action will be determined at that time.

#### Recycling

Chair Spear said he would present his doctoral study on recycling to the NH Department of Environmental Services January 10 at 12:30pm in Concord.

#### Regional Transportation

Chair Spear will meet with Mike Meller and a representative of the regional transportation organization. He hopes to keep the project moving forward, perhaps to be taken on by a new member of the committee.

Green Business Initiative

Ms. Seward spoke with Jen Tockman at the Chamber about the Green Business Initiative. Ms. Tockman said since Destination New London is now part of the Chamber, there might also be a good partnership between the Chamber and the Green Business initiative.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary  
Town of New London