



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES March 6, 2013

PRESENT: Bill Spear (Chair), Michael Rodriguez, Dave Harris, Leigh Bears, Margie Weathers
ABSENT: Mike Meller, Joan Cobb, Brian Armentrout, Alison Seward
ALSO PRESENT: Larry Chase (Andover Energy Committee), Paul Boynton, Garrett March

Chair Spear opened the meeting at 7:05pm. It was noted that Mr. Meller had a conflict that night, Mr. Armentrout has temporarily relocated to Michigan, and Alison Seward was sick.

Approval of Minutes of February 6, 2013

IT WAS MOVED (Dave Harris) AND SECONDED (Margie Weathers) to approve the minutes of February 6, 2013, as circulated. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Michael Rodriguez Update

Chair Spear recommended having the New London Energy Committee collaborate with the Andover Energy Committee as much as possible. He asked Mr. Rodriguez if he was interested in helping in this effort. Mr. Rodriguez said he was willing to help and understood they would work alongside Andover with the Energy 101 program.

Chair Spear said that Mr. Harris arranged a session on April 9th to be sponsored by the New London Energy Committee and the Colby-Sawyer College ENACTUS organization (formerly SIFE) at the library. They plan on putting together a mailing list to get more people involved in these sorts of events. There was mention of this event being a recruiting opportunity to find new members for the Energy Committee. Chair Spear said that the speaker would be Janice McElroy and her presentation was called "Connecting the Dots to Climate Change." Ms. Weathers said that Dave Kidder has agreed to support the program but was unable to attend the April 9th event. He would send a replacement on his behalf.

Chair Spear said that an email flyer should be sent around to promote the event. He wondered if these sessions could be advertised on the Facebook page for the Energy Committee. Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary, advised the Committee that they should speak with Ms. Hallquist first before setting up a Facebook page. Recently, another Town committee had requested setting up a page and was informed that there were some liability issues they needed to consider first. Mr. Rodriguez said he would contact Ms. Hallquist to talk about logistics.

Mr. March said the Transition Town group would consider endorsing the event on April 9th if more information was sent to him to share with the rest of the group.

Transition Town – Energy Survey

Chair Spear said that his Marketing Research class will create the survey about Transition Towns and send it to the Transition Town group who will then adjust it and get it ready to send out. Mr. Boynton said that he has contacted PSNH, the Hospital, looked at energy used at Colby-Sawyer College and the municipal buildings in New London. The draft of the document they come up with will be one that will keep evolving. It was noted that other groups should be contacted to support the program, including the League of Women Voters, the Andover Energy Committee, and the New England Sustainable

Organization. It was noted that the Andover Energy Committee may be willing to distribute an email notice about the event through their email list.

Chair Spear thought they should help promote the things the Andover Energy Committee is doing and he would like to do more with the New London Energy Committee website through the Town.

Chair Spear said he would be in New York for next month's meeting. He wondered if anyone wanted to run the meeting. Mr. Rodriguez volunteered to do so. The April 3rd meeting will be held in the Tracy Memorial Library.

Grants

Mr. Rodriguez said that for municipalities, there is really nothing available. The ones that had been revealed several years ago have not been renewed. The only option he could find is the Municipal Energy Reduction program, which is a low interest loan.

Mr. Rodriguez said that April 13th at the Winnisquam Regional High School there would be a Local Energy Solutions Conference. There will be a lot of people there talking about projects they have done and alternative ways they get funding. This event is sponsored by the EPA. Chair Spear thought that someone from the Energy Committee should go to this event. Mr. Rodriguez said that he would definitely be going and would pay for himself. Mr. Harris and Ms. Weathers said they would like to go. Ms. Bears said she wanted to go and would if her schedule allowed.

Green Fair Update

Ms. Bears said that the Green Fair hasn't been discussed yet with the Transition Town group as they are focusing on their March 30th event about Transition Towns. She will keep it on their agenda for discussion after this event.

Ms. Bears added that Stonyfield Farms has turned their annual 5K into a fair. She thought this might be a good event to go to to see what they are doing and how they are doing it. Mr. Rodriguez suggested putting a booth up at New London Hospital Days this year to get some attention from the public. Chair Spear said that they have heard suggestions from the Andover Energy Committee about setting up information booths at Town Meeting and also about meeting with area banks to ask about offering lower interest rates to people who are borrowing to upgrade their homes with sustainable energy measures.

Town Investments

Chair Spear thought the Committee should see if the Town has investments and perhaps they could move investments towards energy conscious funds. He would contact Ms. Hallquist about this but understood that they could not put the taxpayer's money in jeopardy by moving money from a stable fund to one that may be less stable but energy conscious.

Regional Transportation

Chair Spear said that Dr. Meller said he would be at the next meeting to give an update. He felt there was increasing interest in the topic of regional transportation.

Collaboration with Andover Energy Committee

Chair Spear said he looked forward to working together with the Andover Energy Committee and supporting each other's programs and ideas.

Transition Town Initiative

Ms. Bears said the Transition Town group would be meeting again in two weeks.

Recycling in the Schools

Ms. Bears said there is a new zero-sort program created by Dee Doheny called Kwyche (Qu-ee-tch-ee). Ms. Doheny will be giving presentations in all the district schools to educate the kids about recycling. She wondered if she should ask Ms. Doheny to come to the Energy Committee to discuss her plans. It was suggested that Ms. Bears invite Ms. Doheny to the event on April 9th.

Chair Spear said that organic material comprises 30% of their waste. Ms. Bears said that they need to do a composting workshop. Ms. Weathers suggested instead of doing a green fair that they have a series of seminars, and one could be about composting. Other suggested seminars could be on worm bins and rain collection systems.

Other Remarks

Ms. Bears suggested having a “lights out” night once or twice a year.

Mr. Harris thought any new “no idling” signs should be written as “turn your engines off.” It was felt that some people didn’t know what “idling” meant.

**IT WAS MOVED (Dave Harris) AND SECONDED (Margie Weathers) to adjourn the meeting.
THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London