



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## Minutes of the April 2, 2012 Energy Committee Meeting

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jack Harrod (Chair), Bill Spear (Vice-Chair), Joan Cobb, Alison Seward, Brian Armentrout, Dave Harris

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mike Meller, Margie Weathers, Peter Stanley (Planning & Zoning Administrator, ex officio)

Chair Harrod called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. He noted that there were no minutes to approve, as there was no quorum at the March meeting and thus no formal minutes to record.

### **Micro-Hydro Study at Pleasant Lake Dam**

Harrod said that the town has received the study by Jay Boeri for micro-hydro at the Elkins Dam. He said that Boeri did a lot of historical digging and a lot of calculations as to the potential for hydroelectric power generation. The problem is that the study showed that with electricity rates being as they are, money would be lost continuously if the town went forward with hydro power. Sometime in the future this may change, so Boeri thought they should leave everything there, as it is. Harrod noted that Linda Jackman or Peter Stanley could get a copy of the report to committee members if they want to read it.

Seward asked if the town now owned the formula that Boeri used to figure out the power capabilities for the dam. She was referring to the spreadsheet that he used to plug in the information. Harrod said the town could go back to Boeri at a later date if there was need for it.

### Colby-Sawyer Update

Spear said the college is moving forward with upgrading a college-owned house on Main Street to be more sustainable. The SIFE team will lead this effort and will be working on a house that has students living there currently. They plan to do this in stages and the Senior Staff of the college is behind the project. SIFE is proposing to begin with a simple approach to understand the building, including the proposed use of zero VOC paint, proposed windows to be swapped out, caulking and sealing. They will do a "Button-Up"-type audit. They will then determine what phase 2 and phase 3 will be. The students who live there will be aware that the house will be used as an example and that tours will be given at open houses and during the Green Fair.

The college is still collecting money for the wind turbine study. SIFE is continuing to move forward with the project. They are less than \$2,000 away from being able to erect the net towers to see if a turbine will be feasible. They are also coming up with a "plan B" in case having a turbine does not prove feasible in the area.

The college is continuing the energy-measuring program with the Polar Bear indicators, and they have also received a grant for \$1,500 to promote women being more involved in reducing waste. With this money, they hope to purchase some large recycle bins. The college as a whole is becoming a lot more aware of solid waste and recycling.

### Reusable Shopping Bags

Harrod said he overheard a cashier at Hannaford ask a customer if she had any reusable shopping bags with her. He was hopeful that this was something being done more often to encourage the use of the bags.

### Green Business Alliance

Armentrout said that he thought it would be best to scale down the program and start simple and then grow from there. He thought he could get GroSolar (the company he works for) to contribute to the program. Harrod encouraged the members of the Energy Committee to think on a smaller scale as they move forward with projects such as this, without him. The Green Fair was an ambitious idea but there was not enough time last year to do it on the scale that they had wanted to. There were hopes to get the attention of the Chamber of Commerce with this program to gain their support. Seward noted that Jen Tockman was the new head of the Chamber of Commerce and was the only employee there.

Seward said that she came to her first Energy meeting a year ago. At the time, members were discussing the Flying Goose's Sustainable Business Award. She thought it must be time to choose the second business to receive the award. Harrod didn't know if there were any other businesses that would currently qualify for this award. Spear thought they should give it to whomever is making the biggest difference, which was still the Flying Goose. Members did not think, however, that they should give the award to the same business twice in as many years.

Seward said that Springledge Farm could be considered, as it was sustainable and eco-friendly. Harrod wasn't sure if this was too much of a stretch. Cobb thought they fit the criteria for the award as they do a good job recycling. She wondered if there was a list of criteria that they could review to help them nominate a business.

Armentrout said that the Inn at Pleasant Lake could be considered. They recycle all the beer and wine bottles that come from the restaurant, instead of just throwing them away. He added that the college was doing a good job too. Spear said that the college shouldn't be counted out and opined that they were doing probably the most in the town to increase sustainability. It was decided that at the next meeting they should discuss criteria for the award.

Spear wondered if they should be talking to other businesses to let them know that Tom Mills from the Flying Goose might be able to give a talk about what he has done with his business to make it more sustainable.

### Green/Energy Fair

Seward said they have had several meetings and are meeting bi-weekly. They have eight people interested in working on it but are having a hard time getting everyone together at the same time to meet. They have a meeting scheduled for the next Wednesday and within the next two to four weeks they will decide whether or not they can put on the fair in October. Cobb thought the Chamber of Commerce might need to be brought in to be a partner. Seward said she would speak with Ms. Tockman about this as she knows her personally.

Spear said they have set up some key milestones and if they are not met by a certain time, they will abandon the idea for this year.

### Regional Transportation

Harrod said that there was one potential vendor possibly interested in setting up a van route from New London to Lebanon and Hanover. Meller was out of town and Harrod didn't think that anyone had as yet followed up with this person/people to discuss the possibility.

### New Chairman

On May 7<sup>th</sup> a new chairman will be elected. Harrod will be present at the meeting but will then step down as he has been on the committee for five years since its inception and has been chairman for three.

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Spear said he finally got approval for his doctoral proposal. Starting in early May he will be collecting data from four towns in New Hampshire on their recycling programs. After he wraps the project up this summer, he would like to bring the results back to the Energy Committee. He was confident that there were some methods that help increase the recycling rates. He hoped to be able to use these tactics to promote more recycling in New London. Harrod suggested creating a report to the Board of Selectmen on this that could then be passed on to the Public Works Director for implementation of any recommendations.

Armentrout said that a collaborative open house at the Flying Goose might be a good idea to draw people into the restaurant and learn about what has been done there. Harrod thought that some of the advertising the restaurant has done has encouraged people to come in and look anytime.

Armentrout wanted to give thanks for the workers at the transfer station. He thought they do a great job and are very helpful.

Cobb said she never finished cleaning up the demonstration natural garden plot from last year due to wasps. She said she could do it alone. Harris suggested Cobb let the Energy Committee know when she planned to work on it and others may be able to help. Harrod suggested contacting Mark Vernon, as he had helped her with it in the past.

Harrod noted that he had asked Frank Anzallone if he would like to re-join the Energy Committee. He hasn't heard back from him as yet.

Harris said he was trying to encourage the New London area as a bicycling destination and he didn't know any better ways to get the word out to people about the number of rides available. He thought he would just keep going from inn to inn to post information. He would also put a flyer up in the library.

Spear wondered if there would be value in having a case study of the work done at the Flying Goose. He has a course in Managerial Decision-Making in the fall and thought it would be a useful topic for his students to pursue.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 7, 2012 at 7:00pm.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary  
Town of New London

Reviewed by Jack Harrod  
Chairman, New London Energy Committee

