



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## ENERGY COMMITTEE APPROVED MEETING MINUTES November 6, 2013

**PRESENT: Bill Spear (Chair), Alan Owens, Leigh Bears, Dave Harris**

**ABSENT: Margie Weathers Joan Cobb, Alison Seward Brian Armentrout, Michael Rodriguez**

Chair Spear opened the meeting at 7:04pm.

### Minutes

**IT WAS MOVED (Dave Harris) AND SECONDED (Leigh Bears) to approve the minutes of October 2, 2013, as circulated. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Chair Spear said he has talked with Jen White (Sustainability Coordinator at Colby-Sawyer College) and the students from the Transition Town organization who both assure him that the materials for an Energy 101 program exist and there is no need to recreate anything.

Chair Spear noted that the Andover Energy Committee has a planned workshop on November 9th at 10:00am for local homeowners interested in lowering energy costs. The owner of the model home they will be viewing is a young woman who is making these improvements from the ground up. The woman is a member of the Andover Energy Committee. There is a limit to 20 participants.

### New London Energy Committee Workshop Brainstorming

#### *Vital Communities*

Chair Spear said this was a group from the Upper Valley region that wants to select up to four communities to partner with them from March to June next year to allow installers to pass on significant discounts in the communities. Proposals will be accepted through December 16<sup>th</sup> for communities that want to increase their solar power. The Vital Communities group will be offering an information session the following Tuesday evening from 5:00 - 6:30pm in Norwich, VT. Chair Spear wondered if New London could get the same benefit in their town by talking to the people at Revision Energy. Perhaps they could offer them a community discount for alternative energy products and installation.

#### *Button-Up New Hampshire Workshop*

Chair Spear noted that Mr. Harris had sent him some information on this program. The closest locations to New London are in West Lebanon and Franklin, both of which are in November.

#### *Alternative Financing Strategies Workshop*

Chair Spear said that the Andover Energy Committee conducted this workshop with someone from Lake Sunapee Savings Bank but said it could be done again.

Chair Spear said they could also expand this program by doing tours of area homes and/or businesses that use solar and other alternative energy measures, such as the Flying Goose Pub. They could invite Bruss Construction and PSNH to participate as well.

It was thought that these workshops could be kicked off at the January 8<sup>th</sup> Energy Meeting. Mr. Harris said he would speak with his contact from Button-Up New Hampshire to see if they could join them in

this initiative. He added that the workshops would be held at Tracy Memorial Library. Ms. Bears suggested adding a brief Energy 101 portion to the Button-Up workshop. February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 could be Energy 101 and Climate Change and Revision Energy. March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 would be the Vital Communities workshop. April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 14 would be Financing Alternatives workshop. Chair Spear said he would engage ENACTUS to come up with flyers and ads for this series of workshops. Ms. Bears would give this information to the Chamber of Commerce to post on the Facebook page, and Chair Spear said he would send the information to Linda Jackman to post on the Town's website.

#### New London Hospital News

Mr. Owens reported that a Sustainability Intern from Colby-Sawyer College, Pedro Altagracia, would be starting at the hospital soon. He will evaluate the systems in the hospital to see where time/resources could be saved.

#### Recycling

Chair Spear said he has been invited to present his doctoral studies on recycling to the State on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Bears thought she would be able to participate.

#### Regional Transportation

Chair Spear noted that Mike Meller has heard back from his contact. His contact is willing to discuss the idea of regional transportation again. Chair Spear said he will have to find the time to go meet and discuss this initiative with Mr. Meller's contact.

#### Investment Fund

Chair Spear said they first have to develop a mission for the fund. They have to decide what they want to do with the money they collect. This would be publicized and they would look for donations to begin funding the fund. The trustees in Town have said they would manage the fund for them. Ms. Bears thought this mission should be brainstormed on by the entire committee at a meeting. She thought they all had the same ideas but it would be good to work together to verbalize it and get it down on paper.

#### Collaboration with Andover

Chair Spear thought they should let the Andover Energy Committee know when they are doing their workshops.

#### Rain Barrels

Mr. Harris said he installed some rain barrels at the library, which ended up being defective. They have been replaced and now he has two that have small cracks in them and wondered if anyone had a use for them. No one did.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary  
Town of New London