



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

375 MAIN STREET • NEW LONDON, NH 03257 • WWW.NL-NH.COM

ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES May 29, 2013

PRESENT: Bill Spear (Chair), Michael Rodriguez, Leigh Bears
ABSENT: Joan Cobb, Brian Armentrout, Alison Seward, Margie Weathers
ALSO PRESENT: Alan Owens (Director of Facilities, New London Hospital)

Chair Spear opened the meeting at 7:04pm.

Approval of Minutes of May 1, 2013

IT WAS MOVED (Leigh Bears) AND SECONDED (Michael Rodriguez) to approve the minutes of May 1, 2013, as circulated. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Workshop with Revision Energy

Chair Spear said in recent meetings it was discussed that workshops would be an effective method for share information with people about possible tax credits and grants they could be eligible for. He thought they could work with businesses such as R.P. Johnson to do this. He also spoke with Heather from Revision Energy who said they would be willing to come do a workshop as well. It was thought perhaps a combined workshop could be held between the Energy Committee and Revision Energy.

Ms. Bears thought it would be great if there could be a tent put up outside during the Friday night concerts in the park to provide information about these workshops. Chair Spear said that fliers should be put up all over town and an ad could be taken out in the Shopper to draw attention to the workshops.

Chair Spear wondered if they should open up the workshop series to other vendors so as not to appear to have the New London Energy Committee biased in favor of Revision Energy.

Allen Owens said he would contact Bruss Construction about the types of sustainable construction they provide. Perhaps they can be pulled in to the workshop series. Mr. Rodriguez added that Tom Mills from the Flying Goose might be willing to come in to talk about what he has done at the pub to make it sustainable and how it is working for him and his business. Chair Spear said both he and Mr. Harris have residential experience with solar paneling and could share their experiences as well.

Chair Spear thought this workshop should be held in the summer or early fall. Mr. Rodriguez thought Hospital Days would be a good time to pass out information and let people know about the workshop.

Mr. Rodriguez believed he could have his first draft of the Energy 101 program ready in early July. It was thought that July 10th would be the next Energy Committee meeting.

Sustainable Business of the Year

Chair Spear thought it was about time they choose a business to nominate for 2013. When Ms. Weathers and Ms. Seward are present they will move forward with this.

New London Hospital Update

Mr. Owens said a big challenge facing the hospital is that it is old and has had many additions that are maintained by their own facilities which leads to wasted energy. There are seven boilers for 150,000 square feet of space. A large investment would be required to modernize the facility and marketing will be key to acquiring funding to address this issue. His goal is to start with lighting improvements, waste reduction, increased recycling, and more efficient disposal of biological waste. Mr. Owens felt that water conservation was also an important thing to think about. Faucets and shower-heads could be changed to adjust the flow rates and reduce the rate of consumption.

Recycling

Chair Spear said he would put his recycling presentation together when he returns from vacation.

Regional Transportation

Chair Spear said he is waiting to hear from Mike Meller with regards to the next step. Dr. Meller is working on getting some contacts that would be willing to meet with Chair Spear to discuss the possibilities of regional transportation in the New London area.

Collaboration with the Andover Energy Committee

Chair Spear said that Larry continues to reach out to the New London Energy Committee. He has invited anyone who is interested in attending their next meeting to do so. It is scheduled for June 6th.

Facebook Page

Chair Spear said Mr. Rodriguez sent him a sample policy that the New London Energy Committee could use for its own Facebook page. Ms. Hallquist has asked them to have a policy in place prior to having a social media campaign to declare how it would be governed. There is a responsibility to be able to respond to people who may ask questions, and would also need to decide on how to respond to those posing negative opinions on the page.

Mr. Rodriguez explained the goals and objectives he had come up with for the policy, and welcomed the input from other committee members. He noted there were other things to think about including: who has access to the account, who would manage it, what would be acceptable use for the municipality, what is it for; personal or professional interest, what sort of content will be managed or posted, who will manage the site passwords and what will happen if security is compromised, who will retain the records, where will they be retained and how will they be stored? The policy needs to address the first amendment and what will be tolerated and protected. The policy also needs to define who will own the records once they are put on the Facebook page; the committee or Facebook. Lastly, they need to think about moderating the page to allow for dialogue and civility.

Mr. Rodriguez stressed that no one person could or should handle all of these tasks with regards to the Facebook page. He suggested anyone not familiar with Facebook get an account and get familiar with it. They could share the responsibilities. A Facebook page will be an important focus of our next committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London

