



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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New London Energy Committee

January 9, 2012, 7:00pm

Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jack Harrod (Chair), Dave Harris, Mike Meller, Alison Seward, Joan Cobb, Peter Stanley (Planning & Zoning Administrator, ex officio)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Margie Weathers, Brian Armentrout, Bill Spear

Chairman Harrod called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

1. Minutes of December 5, 2011 Meeting

Harrod asked if there were any suggested amendments to the minutes of December 5, 2011. He noted that Spear had contacted him with three minor clarifications, which he had included in a revised version of the draft after it was circulated to the members of the Energy Committee. There were no other amendments and so Harrod called for a motion to accept the minutes, as circulated with Spear's amendments.

IT WAS MOVED (Alison Seward) AND SECONDED (Dave Harris) to approve the minutes from December 5, 2011 as amended. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.

Meller abstained from the vote as he had not read the minutes.

2. Colby-Sawyer Developments

Spear had indicated in an email that there were no updates from the College. Stanley said that there was an application by the college to expand the Ware Campus Center. Infiltration of storm water runoff will be addressed differently than in previous designs at Colby-Sawyer; they will use stone diaphragms that will enable the water to go into the ground rather than moving it away from the area. He wasn't sure if the method would be green, and hasn't yet seen a design. This summer the college will build the new addition and in the fall they will finish the project by renovating the current structure.

3. Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant (EECBG) status (Elkins micro-hydro)

Stanley said that Jay Boeri was to report to the Town by the end of last month and hadn't yet done so. He has not been paid any money as of yet, since no report has been provided. Stanley said that he would contact Boeri promptly to see what was going on.

4. Reusable Shopping Bags

Harrod said he spoke recently with Nate Kenyon (the Hannaford manager) who said he is still doing what he can to promote reusable shopping bags. Harrod thought it would be good for cashiers to suggest the use of reusable bags to customers who don't have them.

Harrod noted the Committee's ad that had been put in the Kearsarge Shopper promoting shopping locally. Armentrout was able to get a free quarter-page ad in the InterTown Record expressing the same intention. Stanley said he heard from some retail businesses that there was a fair amount of response to the ads

promoting shopping local. Harrod felt the ads helped people recognize what the Energy Committee is doing.

5. Green Business Alliance

Neither Weathers nor Armentrout was at the meeting to report. Harrod noted that Armentrout has been put in contact with the person in Portsmouth who runs that city's Green Business Alliance, which sounded to him like a very detailed and involved program. He believed that New London's alliance will need to find another non-profit that can re-circulate money because the program includes the purchasing of membership cards.

6. Regional Transport

Harrod and Meller met with some people in Lebanon regarding the possibility of extending the service of the current system in Lebanon/Hanover or a similar provider into the New London area. Meller explained that they spoke with Vital Communities (a non-profit) representatives about broadening the reach of the service. There were a lot of theoretical ideas about how it could be done with minimal cost and be primarily paid for by stakeholders like DHMC (Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center) and Dartmouth College which have many of their employees or users coming from this area or from somewhere in between. Merchants may also want people from this area coming to them without having to drive themselves there.

Stanley asked if Dartmouth Coach would take a passenger from New London to Lebanon. Harrod said it currently would not. Meller said the bus company doesn't want the complications of having to handle more money and there is no ticket office in this area. The only place local New Londoners can go by public transportation at this time is Boston.

Harrod said that Vital Communities will be looking into the possibility of expanding the bus service from New London to Lebanon/Hanover. Stanley suggested they could avoid handling money by using e-ticketing or credit/debit card machines on the bus. Harrod said that Federal grants are dwindling for bus services such as Advanced Transit. It would be a challenge to increase the routes at this point in time. Meller said that the quality of drivers for Dartmouth Coach was top notch, which was key.

Harrod said that they need to talk to someone at the Council on Aging about how many trips that group makes to the Lebanon area for people who need to get to DHMC for appointments. Meller said that the Advanced Transit people are considering a route between Lebanon and Claremont but the budget they foresee is \$200,000 per year. It is difficult to come up with that money. He felt that there are many people in New London who are not able to drive at night or at all, as well as many at Woodcrest who would appreciate the availability of public transportation.

7. Spring Energy Fair

Seward and Harris had met in December to discuss what had been considered the previous year. They hope to meet again in January to come up with a structure for the event planning. Jenn White from Colby-Sawyer wishes to participate. Spear knows that the SIFE students want to be involved as well.

Harris thought that 10 members on the committee would be sufficient. Seward said that people would likely work in pairs. Harrod noted that Colby-Sawyer had volunteered to serve as the financial mechanism to process the money that would come in and go out for the planning and execution of the event, since the NLEC was constrained from doing that by law.

Harris said he may be in Portsmouth later that week and could stop by Clean Air/Cool Planet to discuss this event. Harrod provided some contact names for Harris, including Julia Dundorf and Roger Stephenson.

Harris noted that they had talked about having online registration using PayPal. A website page has been created by Jennifer White at Colby-Sawyer College. He thought it would be nice to have a map showing the region surrounding New London and those homes/businesses that had taken energy saving measures. He felt a 20-mile radius of the town would be sufficient (Peter Stanley provided him with a map after the meeting).

Harris noted that they had thought it would be good to have a small group of people to make a final decision to approve the applicants for the event. Organizers would want to have some control over who participates.

8. Member Minutes

Harrod began by saying that in May he would like to terminate his connection to the committee. He has been on the committee for five years and Chair for three years. He wanted to give the other members ample lead time. There is still room on the committee for two additional people. Ten would be the maximum number for the committee, by informal agreement with state law, which postdates the committee's creation by warrant at town meeting rather than under the state law. His leaving in May would make room for three more people. Harrod asked everyone to keep their eyes and ears open for people who may want to be good contributing members of the committee.

Seward said that there was a new Central New Hampshire Permaculture Meet-up Group. Candice Whitney founded the group last month, which already has 85 members.

Harris said he felt he should resign from the committee as he has many obstacles in his personal life that will make it difficult for him to be a regularly-attending member. He'd like to find a replacement before he resigns and thought perhaps his neighbor, who has installed a geo-thermal system and is currently installing solar panels, may be interested. Harrod asked Harris to consider remaining on the committee in the short term to help with the Green Fair planning, as he had some important experience and background information to contribute.

Harris added that it is worth thinking about creating a non-profit entity to handle the Green Fair.

Cobb said she is interested in cutting down the use of the gasoline motor for mowing. In the fall she spruced up the committee's project to demonstrate natural landscaping near the transfer station entrance to make it look better but she still wasn't satisfied.

Meller has been also thinking of moving off the committee but would stay on until the others had replacements. He noted that the next day there was a Vital Communities board meeting and the board would likely discuss the transportation issue that had been talked about that evening.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, February 6, 2012. Meller said he would not be present because he would be out of the country on vacation.

IT WAS MOVED (Mike Meller) AND SECONDED (Alison Seward) to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary
Town of New London

Reviewed by
Jack Harrod, Chairman
New London Energy Committee