



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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ENERGY COMMITTEE — MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: November 7, 2018, 7:00 PM, Town Offices, Syd Crook Conference Room

Committee Members Present: Jamie Hess, Lisa Hess, Greg Ames, David Paradis, Peter Vedova, Tim Paradis, Bud Dick

Guests: Charlie Bando-Hess

Meeting called to order by Jamie at 7:05 PM.

Brief description of subject matters discussed & final decisions (votes) taken (if any):

1. **Minutes** – Peter moved to approve October minutes as presented, Dave seconded. Jamie had minor edits during discussion. Peter then made a motion to approve minutes as amended by Jamie. Lisa seconded, approved unanimously.
2. **Municipal solar** – Lots of activity with Norwich Technologies; they discovered a \$40,000 state rebate coming available; should get in the queue to take advantage of it when funds are made available. They need a letter of intent from the town to begin the process. LOA would allow them to start on system design and gets project in the state rebate queue. Presence/absence of rebate would determine if solar would cost extra or save town money on electric bills. For a PPA, the rebate would lower kWh price during the PPA (not reduce end-of-contract buyout). Norwich is recommending 157kW (125kW at sewer pumping station, 32kW at DPW garage). Solar subcommittee to meet to discuss further at 8:30am, 11/9/18 in the Syd Crook Conference Room.
3. **Led Lighting** – Eversource informed the Library that the Smart Start financing program is fully committed for 2019, but the Library will get into queue for 2020. Library may do “low hanging fruit” LED conversions projects using capital reserve funds in 2019, and use Smart Start for remaining LED conversions in 2020. 25% utility rebate is available for projects paid for directly in addition to those financed via Smart Start. Since the Smart Start program seems to be in high demand, maybe the Town should apply now for

Smart Start for other buildings in 2020? Library should apply early in the year to avoid missing funds. Jamie spoke with Water Precinct over LED conversions, mini-split heat pumps (vs current old resistance heating), heat pump water heaters, third party power purchase contracts, and possible solar at headquarters building only (they don't have land/roofspace for on-site behind the meter solar at pumping stations). They have already installed variable speed pumps for efficiency (pumps that run continuously at a slower speed vs start/stop and thereby minimize demand charges at startup).

4. **Buker Building** – Jamie received email stating that Energy Committee should be involved in the project design, whether renovate or rebuild. Buker building is the largest consumer of electricity and heating fuel in the Town.
5. **Update on Weatherize-Solarize campaign in partnership with the towns of Andover, Newbury, Sutton, Warner and Wilmot** – Weatherize (Jan-Mar)/Solarize (Apr-Jun) to be done under auspices of Kearsarge Climate Action, with help from Vital Communities. Energy Committee members are invited to join the KCA meetings. Sarah Brock at Vital Communities has selected three NH Saves pre-approved contractors for weatherize. Subcommittee of KCA has issued an RFP to approximately a dozen solar contractors, expect to interview 3-4 before making final selection. Weatherize to run Jan-Mar; Solarize following Apr-Jun (but people may start solar early in Q1 if they wish).
6. **Proposed solar zoning ordinance under consideration by the Planning Board** – Planning board is looking to issue a solar zoning ordinance. Tim is on both the Planning Board and Energy Committee and will serve as conduit between both. Example issues to address include ground mount systems in front yards, fire fighter roof safety, etc. Energy Committee should try to anticipate these needs and work with the Planning Board to make sure that any upcoming systems through Solarize would be in compliance as much as possible with upcoming changes. How would modifications to grandfathered non-compliant systems be handled under a new ordinance? What about inverter replacement, re-roofing, system expansions, etc.? Discussion continued to next month.
7. **Proposal to codify the tax treatment of residential solar arrays** – Many municipalities in New Hampshire have ordinances to exempt solar systems from property tax assessments. Jamie heard a rumor that the state will no longer allow towns to follow an

“unwritten policy”, and that, in the future, towns will be required to collect property tax on solar systems if they do not have a specific exemption ordinance in place. Andover, Warner, Sutton, and Newbury have passed solar tax exemptions, while New London and Wilmot have not. No action tonight, but will continue discussion in December. Jamie will investigate the Andover, Warner, Sutton, and Newbury ordinances for guidelines/language for a potential New London ordinance to be discussed further at the next meeting.

8. **Discuss budget priorities for fiscal year 2019** – Jamie is looking for suggestions. Sun Eye or Solar Pathfinder? Maybe Solarize installer can get us a good deal?
9. **Other business** – None.
10. **Next meeting:** Wednesday, December 5, 2018, 7:00 PM, Syd Crook Conference Room.
11. **Meeting adjournment:** Bud moved to adjourn, Tim seconded. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Ames, Secretary