



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

July 22, 2019

6:00 PM

PRESENT:

Nancy Rollins, Chairman
Janet Kidder, Selectman
John Cannon, Selectman
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator
Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer

ALSO PRESENT:

John Raby, New London Resident
Jamie Hess, Energy Committee
Tim Paradis, Energy Committee
Leigh Bosse, *The Messenger*
Minette McQueeney, *Intertown Record*

Selectman Rollins called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Appointments

Agreement to install solar at Public Works

Jamie Hess, Chair of the Energy Committee, attended the meeting to discuss the municipal solar project. He explained that the investors hope to start construction on this soon however the contract between the town and the investors must be completed first. Town counsel has reviewed the proposed documents and has indicated areas that should be amended; the Committee is working to address those areas. These documents were supplied to the Town by the investors based on similar investment arrangements they had with other towns in New Hampshire and Vermont. There is now a different document that is being reviewed that is the same one used by Colby-Sawyer College to govern their relationship with their investors and owners of their roof top solar panels. This document has been modified and customized for the New London municipal project. The investors have approved it but town council has not reviewed it yet. One additional document is necessary and this covers payment in lieu of taxes. The City of Lebanon is using this same approach with their solar panel project.

Once these two documents have been reviewed and signed, the project can move forward, with an expected start date in the fall. The Board will need to hold a public hearing on the issue of the payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT), if the Board decides that it will accept a PILOT instead of property taxes. The Board agreed that they would hold a public hearing to consider the issue of a PILOT. Mr. Hess feels it is important that the investors put in writing that the electricity produced from solar isn't going to cost us any more than we are currently paying.

Chair Rollins suggested that the Energy Committee be prepared to provide a complete overview of the project at the public hearing so people understand the return on investment and why we are

proposing the payment in lieu of taxes. Mr. Hess stated the payment in lieu of taxes is just a vehicle that allows the investors to sell us the power at a bargain price. There is no investment by the Town for the first five years, but if additional funds are put into the capital reserve for energy efficiency, then at the end of the fifth full year of calendar operation, there will be an option to buy the system. At that point, the Town would be making an investment and looking for a quick return. Once that investment is paid off, there is free electricity for the life of the project with only minor maintenance expenses.

Selectman Kidder asked what the lifespan of a solar panel is. Mr. Hess responded that they lose .05% of output per year. In theory they should last 200 years, but from a practical standpoint, you have to look at anticipated improvements in the efficiency of solar panels and whether we might want to replace them with something more efficient. Mr. Hess commented that although he can't guarantee it, he was told that maintenance costs would be about \$1,000 per year.

Chair Rollins asked if Mr. Hess knew of any other towns in New Hampshire or Vermont that have involved local businesses and others in being able to buy into and benefit from solar projects. Mr. Hess responded that legal framework in New Hampshire is different than Vermont. In Vermont, the laws are favorable to community solar projects where individuals and businesses can buy a portion of a project and get benefits that way because of net metering rules. In New Hampshire, it's not possible to employ net metering with entities that are different from your own. As a municipality, we are able to net meter from one electric meter to another because they are town meters. But it wouldn't work for businesses to buy into the project.

Chair Rollins stated they are in support of this project and it is very worthwhile.

Kim Hallquist will let Mr. Hess know when she hears from town counsel and will proceed from there to schedule a public hearing.

Public Comment - None

Old Business

Ladies Benevolent Society of Elkins deeded Elkins Bandstand property to town

Ms. Hallquist stated it was voted in at town meeting to accept this property; the deed from the Ladies Benevolent Society of Elkins to the Town is signed and recorded; it is now the town's property.

New Business

Consider Volunteer form from Katie Vedova for Planning Board

The Planning Board has reviewed the volunteer form request and recommends Katie Vedova for appointment.

IT WAS MOVED (John Cannon) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to appoint Katie Vedova to the Planning Board. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Note Resignation of Jim DeVere from the Solid Waste Committee

The Selectmen accepted the resignation of Jim DeVere, expressing their appreciation for his work on the Solid Waste Committee.

Town Administrators Report

Ms. Hallquist provided the following report:

- Ms. Hallquist informed the Board that she recently met with Liz Meller and Joy Kubit who represent the Kearsarge Solarize Initiative and encouraged them to consider joining the Solid Waste Committee as their expertise and interest in recycling and solar initiatives would be helpful to the Committee's work.
- Ms. Hallquist reported that last week there were kids skateboarding in the Town Office parking lot so she spoke with them and encouraged them to skate in a safer location – cars entering and exiting the area could hit one of them. They expressed an interest in having a skateboard park here in New London. She encouraged them to get involved with their local government and to come to a meeting to discuss developing a safe place for skateboarding.
- The New London Police Benevolent Society recently did a "Stuff a Cruiser" event that was very successful collecting food and money for local food pantries.
- Ms. Hallquist attended the Messer Pond Protective Association meeting on Saturday. The group is working on storm water runoff and issues affecting the pond; there were two very interesting speakers on beavers and wood ducks.
- Ms. Hallquist received a call from an Elkins resident today regarding unleashed dogs coming into the road and attacking his dog as they walked past. The caller reported that it has been an issue for the past few years. Ms. Hallquist told him she would speak to the Chief of Police about it and encouraged him to write letters to local papers. There is no local leash law in New London but state law requires that dogs have to be under control at all times.

Committee Meetings & Reports

Recreation Commission – Selectman Kidder reported that the Recreation Commission met and discussed the Low Plain Conservation land acquisition. The commission is in support of this.

Summer programs are in full swing. The Recreation Commission will also be generating a list of items owned by the Recreation Department such as tables, boats and grills. They will make a maintenance and replacement schedule based on this.

Meeting Minutes

Approval of the July 1, 2019 meeting minutes

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to approve the minutes from the July 1, 2019 meeting. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED.

Selectman Kidder noted that for the July 1, 2019 meeting, the minutes should reflect that Woody Blunt, President of Dartmouth Coach was also present at the Park and Ride meeting.

Approval of the July 8, 2019 meeting minutes

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to approve the minutes from the July 8, 2019 meeting. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED.

John Cannon wanted to make sure there was clarification regarding the parking on Pressey Court, Sawyer Lane and Everett Park. It was decided that there would be parking on the side closest to the

Barn Playhouse. Ms. Hallquist will make sure Police Chief Ed Andersen posts the parking signs correctly as they are currently incorrect.

Ms. Hallquist also noted the footnote she put in the minutes to address that the comment that stated the proposed conservation land being in the R2 Zone when it is actually in the ARR zone as the speaker at the public hearing first suggested. That comment was correct that it is in the ARR zone. Joe Kubit was incorrect when he stated that it was in the R2 Zone.

Upcoming Meetings & Special Events

- Next Regular Selectmen's Meeting – Monday, August 5th – 6:00 PM
- Joint NL-Sunapee Sewer Commission – Thursday, July 25th – 5:30 PM @ Sunapee Town Ofc.
- Board of Firewards – Monday, July 29th – 4:30 PM @ Fire Station
- Recreation Commission – Wednesday, August 7th – 5:00 PM @ Whipple Hall
- Planning Board – Tuesday, August 13th – 6:00 PM

Items to be signed

- Accounts Payable Voucher
- Payroll Authorization Voucher
- GIS Service Agreement
- Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) x 3
- Intent to Cut Wood or Timber x 2 c
- Raffle Permit by Our Lady of Fatima Church held at church, 724 Main Street to be held on Saturday, November 9th.
- Applications To Use Town Property
 - ✓ Town Common & Bandstand – On Sunday, September 15th from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm for the Rotary Food Truck Festival by the NL Rotary Club.

Applications Approved &/or Denied

Temporary Event/Sale Permits

- Attic Treasure Sale at Our Lady of Fatima Church basement, 724 Main Street on Saturday, July 27th during 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. APPROVED
- Holiday Fair at Our Lady of Fatima Church, 724 Main Street on Saturday, November 16th during 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. APPROVED
- Summer Fair at First Baptist Church, 461 Main Street on Saturday, July 19th during 8:30 am - 1:00 pm. APPROVED

Sign Permits – all approved

- Temporary Sign – By the Fells Historic Estate and Gardens for a 2'x3' A-frame sign at the Information Booth for artists weekend from July 3rd - 14th.
- Temporary Sign – By James Bednor for a 2'x3' A-frame sign at the Information Booth for the Springfield 250th Celebration, Free Concert from July 15th to July 20th.
- Temporary Sign – By James Bednor for a 2'x3' A-frame sign at the Information Booth for the Springfield 250th Celebration, Silent Auction from July 20th to August 10th.
- Temporary Sign – By the NL Garden Club for a 2.5'x3' sandwich board sign at the Information Booth for the 52nd Annual Antique Show & Sale from July 10th – 27th.

- Temporary Sign – By Wilmot Bandstand Committee for a 24”x18” sandwich board sign at the Information Booth for music of the Wilmot bandstand from July 7th to August 17th.
- Temporary Sign – Our Lady of Fatima for a 24”x24” sandwich board sign at the Information Booth for the Holiday Fair from November 3rd -11th.

Building Permits – all approved

- William & Debra Mitchell, 468 Elkins Road, TM 077-026-000. Add dormer, finish attic, renovate bath, new kitchen, windows & flooring. BP 19-059
- David & Risa Radeke, 583 Forest Acres Road, TM 119-021-000. Demo a portion of deck and rebuild in similar footprint. BP 19-080
- Phillip Sprunger, 62 Fox Run Lane, TM 043-009-000. Roof mount solar 9kw. BP 19-081
- Steffey Investment Realty, 112 Herrick Cove Lane, TM 091-022-000. Demo & rebuild single family house. BP 19-082
- Craig & Deb Langner. 1299 Route 103A, TM 128-010-000. Barn foundation siding, doors & windows. BP 19-084
- Cindy Daley Revoc. Trust, 269 Burpee Hill Road, TM 070-044-001. Roof mount solar array 13.65kw. BP-19-088
- John & Martha Cassidy Trust, 122 Andover Road, TM 110-010-000. Add 12x12 addition to deck & rehab existing deck. BP 19-089
- Joel & Lori Underwood, 276 Stoney Brook Road, TM 137-015-000. Re-roof & skylights. BP 19-090

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to adjourn. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson

Recording Secretary
Town of New London