

DRAFT

**Town of Londonderry, Vermont
Londonderry Energy Committee**

**Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, September 29, 2020 – 6:00 PM
Meeting was held remotely online with no physical presence**

Committee Members Present : Will Reed, Bob Borella, Larry Gubb, Bruce Frauman (after 6:10 pm)

Committee Members Absent: Donna Korpi

Visitors Present: Shane O’Keefe (until ~6:45), Elizabeth Collins

1. Call meeting to order

Chair Will Reed called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm

2. Review and approval of minutes from March 4,2020 meeting

The minutes from March 4, 2020 meeting were approved as submitted.

3. Amedments to the agenda

There were no changes to the additions or deletions to the agenda.

4. Welcome to the public

Elizabeth Collins was introduced. She is a senior at Columbia University studying Environmental Engineering, specializing in Hydrogen and living in Londonderry this fall.

5. Committee members and assignments

After some discussion, it was decided that each Energy Committee member will serve a term of three staggered years. O’Keefe said the advantage of three year terms is that it allows a member to resign gracefully by declining to run again and it allows community members a chance to join the Committee. Frauman and Borella agreed to serve three more years, Gubb agreed to serve two more years, Korpi was assigned a two year term, and Reed will serve for one year, but not as chair.

Borella moved and Gubb seconded the following motion: *I move to recommend that the Selectboard establish three-year terms of office for the Town of Londonderry Energy Committee, and appoint the following individuals to the Committee with transitional staggered terms as follows: Bruce Frauman, and Bob Borella to October 31, 2023; Larry Gubb and Donna Korpi for 2-year transitional terms to October 31, 2022; and, Will Reed for a 1-Year transitional term to October 31, 2021.* Motion passed unanimously.

a. Voting for chair, vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer

At O’Keefe’s recommendation, voting for committee officers will take place at the next meeting.

b. New Chair resumes meeting.

Will Reed continued to chair this meeting.

6. Truax property

a. Review of March discussion

Borella said the Energy Committee discussion was last November, not last March. The property lies in two fields north of the transfer station and appears to be an ideal site to install solar panels. Borella has had brief contact with Ralph of Green Lantern Solar, who will likely be invited to a future meeting to help establish terms for a proposal. He would also likely be a bidder according to O’Keefe.

At Frauman’s request, O’Keefe reviewed the status of the property. He said the property had been used for septage, totaling millions of gallons of treated sewage waste spread over the land over the years up until about 2-1/2 years ago. The state asked for PFAST testing and this combination of chemicals was found in the ground water but not in the soil itself. The water in an adjoining water well tested clean, and will be tested annually. None of the plants grown on the property have been used for human or animal consumption. O’Keefe said the property runs north-south with a high power line running east-west between the fields. O’Keefe said he has worked on projects to purchase energy, but not to generate electricity.

Borella asked how do we pay for this investment? How do we find investors? Do we limit investors to the town of Londonderry? In what way can the town itself participate in this project? Gubb said that when he and Bill Laberge looked at Williams Park for a possible solar installation, he learned that investors will set up a project, take what renewable energy credits they can, then turn it over to the municipality.

Reed said that John Spenser, who Gubb said is a broker in an outfit called Vermont Electric Power Producers, can bring in investors and is very astute at explaining the processs, as he did for Reed before the Flood Brook Board of Directors.

b. Site visit by committee - set date and time

No site visit was planned.

c. Possible action steps

Frauman and Borella said that Reed talking with Spenser sounds like a good place to start. Borella will talk with Ralph at Green Lantern Solar as well as Ann Margolis at Vermont Energy Investment Corporation. O’Keefe said that the property is on the Conservation Commission’s list of properties to manage, so chair Irwin Kupperberg should be kept in the loop.

7. Window Dressers

- a. Review of previous discussions**
- b. Presentation of program - Bruce**

Frauman said that the goal of WindowDressers is to help build community while providing community members with wood framed, plastic wrapped inside window inserts to insulate windows and save energy. In discussion with the director, Laura Seaton, Bruce learned that individuals who can build and install their own inserts are free to do so. However, WindowDressers has figured out not only how to build the inserts in community building workshops, but also how to approach potential clients and partner with agencies such as Neighborhood Connections. Their board of directors has cancelled the 2020-21 building season, but if we choose to go through with this we can start applying for grants to pay for materials, food for the workshops, and to pay for inserts for lower income residents. Another round of Grassroots fundraising occurs in March. Participants can help by joining the widow building workshop, provide food, or other support. As of now, Londonderry is partnered with Wardsboro and Windham and Frauman plans to reach out to Weston and Landgrove for grants and planning workshops. None of the three communities have made any commitments yet.

- c. Possible action steps**

Committee members will consider whether the LEC should sponsor a WindowDressers initiative, possibly in collaboration with The Mighty Londonderry Community Resilience Organization.

8. New business

Gubb said Project Londonderry is considering forming a committee which can apply for and take in grants. This could potentially be used for WindowDressers. He said Project Londonderry is also talking about establishing an investor group as a non-profit, to include water/Wastewater projects. Reed said that economic vitality should be a huge focus of Project Londonderry. Gubb said it is, and is the main focus of at least one of the four committees. He said they also talked about putting electric cables from GMP underground among other projects.

Reed said that insulation work is way up because of 75% grants offered by Efficiency Vermont, so much so that installers, like himself, are getting overwhelmed. 2nd home owners are also taking advantage of a 50% program. He said this is a two year boon for Vermont.

9. Next Meeting - select date, time, and method

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27 at 6:00 pm on Zoom.

10. Other business

Gubb said that the next meeting should include discussion of charging stations, a solar installation at Williams Park, and micro hydro at Williams Park. The Planning Commission is seeking permission from the Selectboard to apply for a municipal planning grant for a Master Plan for sidewalks, streetlights, a possible snow boarding statue on the former Gensner property

at the corner of Routes 11 and 100, and more. Borella said while WindowDressers is on hold, it should be kept in the loop by the LEC. He also said charging stations are still a possibility with the Agency of Natural Resources coordinating. He will check with ANR on charging station status. Gubb said Placesense.com has a video and text about the town's new bylaws and zones and current projects such as energy.

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted October 5, 2020

Bruce Frauman, secretary

Approved Oct 27, 2020

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Chair