

DRAFT

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

Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, January 20, 2021 – 6:00 PM

Meeting was held remotely online with no physical presence

Committee Members Present : Will Reed, Bob Borella, Larry Gubb, Bruce Frauman

Committee Members Abscent: Donna Korpi

Visitors Present: Shane O’Keefe

1. Call meeting to order

Chair Will Reed called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm

2. Amendments to the agenda

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

3. Approval of minutes from September 29, 2020 meeting

Larry moved, Bruce seconded that the minutes from September 29, 2020 meeting be approved as corrected. Several misspellings were corrected. Motion passed unanimously

4. Discuss future of Londonderry Energy Committee

Will Reed said he formed the energy committee to take advantage of a grant from the WRC to help write an advanced energy supplement for the town plan. Now that this has been completed, he has no strong feelings. Will would like to find a new energetic member to take the place of Bob Borrella.

Shane said there are some people new to town involved with Project Londonderry who may be interested in moving on to energy. Shane said there is a posting of the opening at the town office building and both post offices. Larry suggested we post on the Londonderry Community Forum and Will suggested we post on the Front Porch Forum. Bruce said Ken Alperti may still be interested. Larry will talk with him and mention the opening at Project Londonderry meetings.

Shane said it is clear there is interested in continuing the Energy Committee, and will continue helping look for new members.

5. Truax property -Informational meeting with representative of Green Lantern Solar

Shane introduced Ralph Meima who can discuss the best use of the former septage fields to reduce taxes by leasing out the property.

Ralph said he has been on the Brattleboro Energy Committee for ten years. Green Lantern Solar was founded in Waterbury 10 years ago and has worked on about 100 projects for hospitals, schools, and ski areas. Each project is usually a 500kw net metering array.

Ralph said the former septage field sites are superb solar sites but the ANR natural resources atlas depicts them as a flooding hazard area. He identified one or two 3-1/2 acre sites nearby that are not in a flooding hazard area, but which were identified as being over a former landfill. Shane is waiting for a call back from John Brooker Campbell, a state ANR employee regarding a waiver of base elevation. Larry said we would need an engineer to survey the area to obtain a waiver. Shane said the only water contamination is from PFAS so there is no issue penetrating the ground. Ralph asked about a possible permitting limitation if the base flood elevations are low enough and the structure is high enough, we could get a waiver. He is willing to look into this. Larry said there may be a danger to poking holes in the former landfill areas.

Will said the amount of land needed to offset municipal energy usage is way less than an acre and asked if the town were allowed to sponsor an array providing more than the town's annual electrical usage. Ralph said it would be difficult to find an investor for an array in the 100-150 kw hour per year range and recommended we become part of a larger net metering group elsewhere in the GMP area if that was our goal. The alternative is to have a good piece of land for an array, be the landlord and make some money off the land. The Town of Londonderry would be one of several off-takers. Bruce asked if all the energy produced could be purchased by GMP as opposed to several off-takers. Ralph said the utility has to purchase power with a net metering program and it is like the wild west outside of net metering..

The Committee agreed that Ralph can work with Shane on the next steps and further information gathering. Will asked if the Select Board would be receptive and Shane said he could not speak for the Board but they would want constructive use of the former seepage property.

Will asked about town renewable energy goals and Ralph said any renewable energy plant would count toward those goals..

Bruce summarized the the main issues seem to be that the former septage fields might be in a flood plain and other areas might be over an old landfill dump site. Shane agreed.

Will and Ralph agreed that the 500 kw array would meet the town's energy goals.

Ralph confirmed the there is a 3-phase power line running through the former septage field property.

6. Old Business

Bruce brought up WindowDressers which is on hold for at least this current window building season (fall-winter). We could apply for grants to help pay for low income residents in March. The Committee consensus is that involvement in WindowDressers will wait until the Covid pandemic passes.

Larry has not yet talked with John Spencer of the Vermont Energy Producers (VEEPE). He said they find investors for power projects. Since we are working with Ralph right now, the Committee consensus is that we will wait for this contact until we know the status of the properties in question.

7. New Business

None

8. Schedule Next Meeting - Select date, time, and method

The Committee consensus is to meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:00pm.
The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 6:00 pm.**

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned by consensus at 7:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted January 29, 2021

Bruce Frauman, secretary

Approval expected February 24, 2021

Will Reed - Chair