

LONDONDERRY UTILITIES COMMITTEE- 2023 Annual Report

This is the first Annual Report of the Londonderry Utilities Committee. The committee was established as a standing committee under Chapter 3 of the Town's administrative code in December 2022. The Committee's first monthly meeting was held on March 22, 2023.

The committee's charter is to study and make recommendations to the Town Manager, Town Staff, and Town Council on issues involving the cost, availability, and reliability of services typically considered as public utilities. This broadly includes the categories of electricity, home heating oil, natural gas, propane, drinking water, broadband availability, fuel for Town vehicles, sewer service, solid waste, and recycling.

The committee consists of ten members appointed by the Town Council and a Town Council liaison member selected by the council. The appointed membership consists of seven full voting members and three alternate members. During the third quarter of 2023, the Solid Waste and Environment Committee (SWEC) was sunsetted as a standalone committee. Many of its activities and responsibilities being moved to the Utilities Committee. Three committee members from the SWEC are also committee members on the Utilities Committee.

Current committee members have experience in many areas including:

- Public Drinking Water Policy
- Community Power Aggregation
- Solar Power Planning and Installation
- Recycling and Composting
- Related Policy Development

The committee is organized into the following four subcommittees to streamline decision making and better focus on project selection, research, and fact finding. Each Utilities Committee member sits on two subcommittees.

- Energy- including electricity, home heating oil, natural gas, and propane
- Water- including public drinking water and private wells
- Sewer and Solid Waste- including many activities previously overseen by the SWEC
- Cable Television and Internet Access

Since the committee's first meeting in March, it has gotten involved with many significant issues affecting the residents of Londonderry. These issues include:

- Monitoring St. Gobain drinking water PFAS contamination remediation commitments
- Community drinking water system policy and master planning development
- Regional drinking water system policy and master planning development
- Community power aggregation program implementation
- Monitoring Twin States Clean Energy Link bringing Quebec renewable power through Londonderry to New England
- Auburn Road Superfund Site Solar Farm planning
- Responding to commercial entities proposing utility related projects to Londonderry
- Wastewater facilities planning
- Exploring external funding opportunities for utilities related infrastructure projects.

Plans for 2024 include:

- Implementing a community wide power aggregation program
- Exploring potential community home heating oil and propane aggregation programs
- Developing a strategic view of a public water system and groundwater preservation program for inclusion in Londonderry's next Master Plan
- Moderating "Status of Londonderry's Drinking Water" Cable Access Television shows
- Continue working with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services on the development a community and regional drinking water plan
- Collaborating with Environmental Services Division staff to update and finalize the "Buried Treasure" recycling guide
- Supporting state level legislative efforts regarding the removal of PFAS packaging materials from the fast-food waste solid stream
- Continue leveraging social media to provide timely utilities related information to Londonderry citizens
- Continue working to assure that timely and effective utilities related information is available on the town website
- Continue our collaboration with other utilities or sustainability committees in the region on projects of mutual interest
- Continue supporting the waste motor oil reclamation program that provides fuel to heat the town garage

The Committee thanks the following local businesses for their continued support:

- Tisdell Transmissions, 27 Ash Street, for accepting used motor oil from residents.
- Shady Hill Greenhouses and Nursery, Artisan Landscapes, and Groundhog Landscaping for maintaining the "Welcome to Londonderry" signs.

For more information on the Utilities Committee, go to londonderrynh.org and visit the Committee's homepage. Also, follow the Committee on Facebook. For more information on waste and recycling programs, go to londonderrynh.org and visit the Department of Public Works homepage.

Citizens interested in learning more about utilities related issues in Londonderry are encouraged to watch us on Londonderry CATV Channel 22 or attend our monthly meetings at 7:00 PM on the first Tuesday of the month in the Moose Hill Conference Room at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair: Lynn Wiles

Vice Chair: Martha Smith

Secretary: John Ferreira

Anne Fenn

Jeff McGraw

Paul Ramsey

Mike Speltz

Ray Breslin (Alternate)

John Mahon (Alternate)

Joy Muller (Alternate)

Town Council Liaison: Ron Dunn