



CITY OF DOVER

ENERGY COMMISSION – MINUTES

Meeting Type: **Regular Meeting**
Meeting Location: **1st Floor Conference Room, City Hall – 288 Central Ave.**
Meeting Date: **Wednesday, February 17, 2021**
Meeting Time: **5:30 PM**

1. Welcome

Chair Bill Baber opened the meeting and asked remote members to state their location, whether they are alone, and their reason for participating remotely, in accordance with the emergency meeting provisions of RSA 91-A:2, III(b).

Roll call:

Deborah Thibodeaux (Council Liaison) - present in the meeting room
Vincent Lyon - home, alone, remote due to COVID-19
Otis Perry (Vice Chair) - home, alone, remote due to COVID-19
Walter King - home, alone, remote due to COVID-19
Barrett Miles (Alternate) - home, alone, remote due to COVID-19
Michael Behrmann - in car, alone, remote due to COVID-19
Susan Smith - home, alone, remote due to COVID-19
Rebecca Ohler (Alternate) - home, alone, remote due to COVID-19
Bill Baber (Chair) – present in the meeting room
Steve Bird (City Planner and Acting Staff Liaison) - present in the meeting room
Absent - Zak Koehler

2. Assign Minutes Taker

Bill Baber volunteered to record minutes for this meeting and, in the absence of a volunteer, will assign members in the future on a rotating basis.

3. Citizen's Forum

No citizens were present.

4. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2021

Motion to approve minutes as written by Otis Perry, seconded by Michael Behrmann.

Roll call: Vincent Lyon - Yes, Otis Perry - Yes, Walter King - Yes, Barrett Miles - Yes, Michael Behrmann - Yes, Susan Smith - Yes, Rebecca Ohler - Yes, Bill Baber - Yes. **Vote: U/A.**

5. Staff Updates

Steve Bird provided an update on the status of renewable and energy efficiency prospects for the recently approved waterfront development project. Contractor pledged to make the rooftops solar ready in the original technical review. Given that the plans have changed the contractor will need to reappear before the technical review committee a second time which would be opportune time to restate our goals. Bill Baber requested that the Planning Office alert the Committee of that meeting. Otis Perry is a member of CWDAC and will pass on the desire to the Energy Commission to speak to this issue.

6. Old Business

Bill Baber relayed that in a conversation with the City Manager he now believes that should the Federal COVID relief funding become available as currently proposed that he will add the Energy Commission twice requested addition of a new Planning Office position with responsibilities for energy and sustainability.



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Otis Perry made a motion that the Chair draft an appropriate letter to City Council giving our strong support for such a position. Walter King seconded the motion. Roll call: Vincent Lyon - Yes, Otis Perry - Yes, Walter King - Yes, Barrett Miles - Yes, Michael Behrmann - Yes, Susan Smith - Yes, Rebecca Ohler - Yes, Bill Baber - Yes. **Vote: U/A.**

A. Goal: Review the draft Energy Report

The Chair requested that the Commission review the 2021 Report by topic with the responsible content author speaking to each topic to advocate for any action that they believe is warranted by the City Council.

A discussion followed with the following topics rising as issues warranting action. Bill Baber reviewed and suggested that we again ask the Council to create a select committee to address the city's sustainability vision. Michael Behrmann suggested that we affirm the Council's desire to resubmit a RFP to expand the solar installation in Dover. Walter King spoke to the need to reaffirm the City's support for the State's Triannual Efficiency Program by again expressing its support given that the PUC has yet to rule. Vincent Lyon discussed his work on the City's energy consumption graphs, the addition of two additional graphs on thermal energy consumption. Vincent didn't think there was a need for a specific action request to the Council based on his graphs. Rebecca Ohler shared her ideas for numerous steps the City could take so Dover was better prepared for the pending onslaught of electric vehicles. Barrett Miles updated the Commission on the current status of the State's emerging Community Power Program. Barrett recommended that the Council act in opposition to House Bill 315 which would effectively gut the program.

B. Goal: Based on our review of the Energy Report, which topics are ready for the formal endorsement of the Commission

At this point the system recording the meeting crashed.

The Commission went on to make a motion for the Chair to draft a cover letter to the Council to accompany the 2021 Report addressing all of the recommendations cited above and including a recommendation by Otis Perry that the City codes should be adjusted to ensure future building roofs were solar ready (this conversation occurred after the system failure.) A motion was made for the Chair to draft such a letter. Walter King seconded the motion. Roll call: Vincent Lyon - Yes, Otis Perry - Yes, Walter King - Yes, Barrett Miles - Yes, Michael Behrmann - Yes, Susan Smith - Yes, Rebecca Ohler - Yes, Bill Baber - Yes. **Vote: U/A.**

7. **New Business:** None.
8. **Other Business / Member Comments:** None.
9. **Call for Agenda Items:** None.
10. **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.