



**CITY OF DOVER**

## ENERGY COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting  
Meeting Location: City Hall – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor - Committee Conference Room  
Meeting Date: April 24, 2012  
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Eric Steltzer, Jan Nedelka, Mary Gilbertson, Shannon Rogers Keegan

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Elizabeth Goldman, Jessica Skinner, Carmen Buford-Paige

**STAFF PRESENT:** Christopher Parker (Planning and Community Development Director), Tim Corwin (Assistant City Planner)

### **Intro given by Chris Parker:**

Parker wanted to express that the commission has a real opportunity to make an impact. He also wanted to let the group know the planning board is interested in collaborating possibly with a fall workshop additionally. Parker suggested that the commission consider publicizing some of the activities that had been done by the prior energy committee including the \$2.7 million worth of infrastructure improvements. Additionally we might like to look at areas that didn't fall within the seven-year payback but were possible improvements that could be funded vehicle rent mechanisms, the contract with Johnson Controls is currently saving \$320,000 in the 1st year instead of the predicted 304,000 so this is really impressive. Parker also suggested that the commission might consider revisiting the idea of putting solar panels through a power purchasing agreement on a prominent city building such as City Hall the library or the ice arena additionally. The group might revisit adding a turbine of the weight-loss wastewater treatment plant.

Both Tim Corwin and Parker are available to help with anything the commission might need. Corwin will be the main point of contact. Rick Jones is still overseeing the energy projects and will visit the energy commission on a quarterly basis to give reports about the Johnson Controls contract.

The commission may meet at a frequency that is appropriate for the goals of the commission. Parker reiterated that he wanted to make sure the experience for everyone was worth the investment.

The group decided to wait to select the election of officers until the next month's meeting.

Updates from the planning board (Parker Cont.)

In January 2012 we adopted the states small wind energy ordinance this means that residents can now put up small turbines of their home.

Tonight we will be presenting in an ordinance related to electrical vehicle parking in a lot that has 50 cars or more: developers must provide 2% of the overall spaces with electrical vehicle charging spaces if 5% is provided then developers may receive a fee reduction or if a developer adds charging space voluntarily in a smaller lot or in a residential lot



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Steltzer asked are you coordinating with DES on this? Parker stated that they had worked with air resources people DES and spoken with them and learned that they are in the process of coordinating with folks in Massachusetts about creating an electrical vehicle charging corridor. Additionally the electrical inspector shared with Parker that it's not that challenging to put in a charging station at your own home but to date there have been no formal requests. Dover now refers to vehicle recharging and refueling stations and not gas stations in any new permitting however we didn't include a recharging station requirement because it seems that electrical vehicle recharging makes more sense in a parking lot. These actions and ordinances are examples of where the energy commission may work with the planning board.

Steltzer asked if with regard to building codes if any stretch codes have been implemented. He explained that stretch codes are when municipalities implement more stringent codes than are required. Parker said it has been challenging to get the city to do green building itself so it has been tough to ask developers to do this as well. However the city engineer has been looking at LID (Low Impact Development) more frequently such as white roofs and the retention ponds. In the Silver Street bid process a requirement for sustainable designs was made. Planning did get pushback when it added that porous surfaces were required in over 1 acre parking lots. The construction that is going on currently at Dover Street and Park St with the reuse of the older Robbins building will have porous pavement elements.

Keegan asked if the visioning process for Dover 2023 may include any formal statements from committees or commissions and would it be possible for the energy commission to make a formal statement to add to this vision?

Parker answered that if the statement is submitted before May 5<sup>th</sup>, it can be included in the process. His current view for the master plan is to not have a specific chapter on energy rather to have energy conscious and sustainability perspectives throughout the plan name attempt to make it more holistic.

Nedelka stated that in the visioning process some people stumbled over the plaintiff that said all building should generate 20% of their own energy and thus agreed that it was better to take a more holistic view of Judy. Parker said if energy and sustainability are reiterated throughout all of the chapters it will be a stronger impact

Gilbertson asked if there will be a specific statement stating saying this in the master plan so that individuals understand why there is not specific chapter on energy? Parker responded they have asked the consultant to indicate as such. Also the land-use and transportation chapters will be combined because you can't really have one without the other. May 5 is the final meeting for the visioning process, the final draft is due on June 12. The master plan is going to be more visual than text focused in the planning committee has the final Tuesday the planning board has the final say on the master plan. Two visioning sessions remain May 1 @ 8am and May 5 for a final wrap up.



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There was some discussion about how the commission feels about including sustainability in the master plan as well as ecomunicipalities. Parker brought up that they arty have dropped ordnance in place for ecomunicipalities whenever the commission might need it. He also stated that we should not be deterred if no other commission makes a formal statement about the visioning process rather that it is an appropriate thing to do. The group decided to make such a brief statement and pass it on to the master planning steering committee. June 26 is the end of the public comment period on the master plan.

Discussion continued around what the energy commissions formal statement would be for the master planning process. The group decided upon the following statement:  
*The Dover Energy Commission supports a general focus of sustainability in all Chapters of the Master Plan. To that end, the Energy Commission encourages the incorporation of the four following principles:*

- *Reduce dependence upon fossil fuels.*
- *Reduce dependence on chemicals and other manufactured substances that can accumulate in Nature.*
- *Reduce dependence on activities that harm life-sustaining ecosystems.*
- *Meet the hierarchy of present and future human needs fairly and efficiently.*

Nedelka will present this statement to the steering committee after Tim places it on official letterhead. Steltzer made a motion for Nedelka to present statement, Gilbertson seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Steltzer entertained a motion to table the election of officers until the next meeting, Nedelka moved and Keegan seconded. Vote was unanimous in support 4-0.

Concerning article II, the operating rules for the commission, attorney Krans suggested we switch sections a and B keeping them the same but “B” be listed first and “A” second. Operating role should reflect what the council voted upon. Nedelka moved that the energy commission alter the operating rules and accept them in the altered state Gilbertson seconded the vote was unanimous 4 to 0.

Corwin presented the startup procedure for new committees this is a checklist of 10 points in the group went through those points deciding that attorney Krans will give a presentation on right to know law etc. Corwin will arrange this.

In terms of the acceptable use policy Annie Doug is the IT person for Dover. And we discussed getting City e-mails, forms were provided to go about doing this.  
Another point on the checklist was to select a meeting schedule this had been selected at the last meeting the energy commission will meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6 PM the next meeting is May 15<sup>th</sup>.



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There are 4 or 5 other energy commissions in the state Plymouth Keene and Concord have one we would like to identify the other commissions and possibly coordinate a viewing/meeting. Steltzer told us about the local energy solutions conference that just took place as an opportunity to interact with other energy committees and commissions. There is also the local energy working group which is a monthly listserv supported by Clean Air Cool Planet. Steltzer will provide Corwin with that information.

Commission goal discussion has been tabled until next meeting but Steltzer suggested that we consider looking into whether the city has been purchasing electricity competitively. Nedelka indicated that the city does different contracts reached up of energy and bundles on a can save money there is an annual process of bidding on most types of energy but he did not call this talking for electricity.

Gilbertson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Nedelka seconded. Vote was unanimous 4-0.