



**CITY OF DOVER**

## ENERGY COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting  
Meeting Location: City Hall – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Meeting Date: Wednesday, July 16, 2014  
Meeting Time: **5:30 pm**

**Members present:** Michele Alexander (Chair), Walter King, Chris Keeley, John Whitcomb, Bonnie LaBrack, Councilor Deborah Thibodeaux

**Members absent:** Laura Raineri, Liz Goldman

**Staff present:** Tim Corwin (Assistant City Planner)

**Others in attendance:** Andrew Kellar, NH Solar Garden

Meeting called to order by M.Alexander.

### **-Approval of Minutes from Meeting of June 25, 2014**

Meeting minutes of June 25, 2014 approved unanimously.

### **-Solar Power Purchase Agreement**

- T.Corwin stated that he spoke with S.Whitman at Plymouth State regarding their PPA project, and was given a contact at Plymouth State who was more directly involved with the project. T.Corwin intends to reach out to find out more about their process.
- C.Keeley suggested having a conference call with Todd Selig, Durham Town Administrator, regarding Durham's experience with their PPA, and will find out when he might be available.
- A.Kellar stated that Plymouth's mistake was not identifying the best locations when issuing their RFP. By contract, the Town of Bedford identified multiple locations and put out a generic RFP requesting proposals for any type of arrangement – community solar, traditional PPA, etc. Having someone initially evaluate the sites, and then picking out multiple sites for the RFP is a good approach. He offered to forward the Bedford RFP for the Commission's information. Using an existing RFP as a model is better than reinventing the wheel.
- A.Kellar described the difference between Community Solar and PPA. Community Solar is where the City leases vacant land, and can then opt into the rebate program. PPA usually involves installing solar on buildings and owning the solar array. Either way, someone should evaluate the City's sites at the outset to determine their viability for a solar project. A.Kellar offered to provide that service at no cost to the City.

### **-Littleworth Road Solar Array Update**

- A.Kellar provided an update on the status of the Littleworth Road Solar Array, an explanation of the recent changes in the net metering rules, and how those changes have impacted the scope of the project.
- PSNH has signed off on the Littleworth Rd project at a lower capacity than original envisioned by NH Solar Garden, just shy of 400 kw. A.Kellar explained that the size of the array is limited by the surrounding demand, not the size of the land on which it is located.
- The Littleworth site is burdened with a large amount of wetland. The solar array is proposed to be located in the 50 ft. wetland buffer which requires review from the Conservation Commission and Conditional Use Permit and Site Review approval from the Planning Board.



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- A.Kellar described the rebate program and suggested that the City might be able to opt in. There is no cost to this. The limitations are that if you already have a solar array on your property, you are not eligible, and also that you cannot get your supply of your energy from a third party supplier. The savings from solar are roughly equal to the savings over time from a third party supplier. The City most likely has a third party supplier, but perhaps not for every facility/building. If every City electric bill is covered by a competitive supplier then the City could not be part of the Littleworth project. But the City could still lease land for a Community Solar project.
- A.Kellar suggested as a starting point evaluating which City utility accounts are third party supplier and which are not. If the City is interested in Community Solar, the City could be able to both lease the land and opt-in. Community Solar is a good way to utilize City owned land that might not ever be used for anything else. Another benefit is that an RFP might not be required because the City would be leasing land, it would not be purchasing anything.
- The Commission agreed to attend the Conservation Commission meeting on August 11 and the Planning Board meeting on August 26 to voice the Energy Commission's support for the Littleworth Rd project. C.Keeley agreed to attend the Conservation Commission meeting on behalf of the Energy Commission. B.LaBrack stated that she would also attend to observe.
- The Commission discussed what should be presented to the Conservation Commission. C.Keeley suggested focusing the comments on how the project supports the goals of the Energy Commission, how solar power is a public good, and how it will be beneficial to the community in the form of cost savings. M.Alexander suggested this might be a good opportunity to explain that the Energy Commission has been exploring various solar projects and that there is potential for the City to opt into the Littleworth Rd project.
- J. Whitcomb made a motion to have C.Keeley attend the Conservation Commission meeting to provide support for the project on behalf of the Energy Commission. C.Keeley second. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **-State Energy Policy**

- The Commission reviewed M.Alexander's draft letter to NH Office of Energy and Planning providing the Energy Commission's comments on the Draft State Energy Policy, and made changes suggested by W.King and D.Thibodeaux. T.Corwin stated that he would make the changes, update the formatting and mailing address, and print on Planning Department letterhead for M.Alexander's signature.
- The Commission discussed presenting the letter to City Council at the Wednesday August 6<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. C.Keeley and W.King volunteered to attend.

### **-Other Business**

- The Commission agreed to table the discussion on Energy Commission goal setting.

### **-Election of Vice-Chair**

- B.LaBrack nominated C.Keeley to serve as Vice-Chair, seconded by W.King. Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.