



CITY OF DOVER

ENERGY ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: 2nd Floor Conference Room – City Hall, Dover, NH
Meeting Date: **Wednesday, October 21, 2015**
Meeting Time: **5:30 pm**

Members present: Chair Chris Keeley, Vice Chair Walter King, Cyrus Esmaeili, Liz Goldman, Laura Raineri, John Whitcomb, City Council Liaison Deborah Thibodeaux, and Staff Liaison Elena Piekut.

Absent: None

Meeting Called to Order 5:30 p.m.

Welcome

Chair Keeley called the meeting to order.

Citizen's Forum

N/A

Approval of Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2015 and September 29, 2015

John Whitcomb moved to approve the minutes of August 19, 2015. Liz Goldman seconded. Vote: UA
Walter King moved to approve the minutes of September 29, 2015. John Whitcomb seconded. Vote: UA

Staff Update

Elena Piekut reminded the Commission that the Land Use Board Meet & Greet will be held Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 6:00 PM in the McConnell Center Cafeteria.

Ms. Piekut distributed the summary of scores for all Photovoltaic System RFQ respondents and written comments from Dean Peschel, Environmental Consultant.

Old Business

A. Finalize Presentation for November 10th Land Use Boards Meet & Greet

Cyrus Esmaeili will send his portion of the presentation to L. Goldman, who will finalize and distribute.

B. Review of Photovoltaic System RFQ Responses & Interviews

The group reviewed the summary of scores and Dean Peschel's written comments. The summary of individual evaluations gave Ameresco the highest score, and Mr. Peschel's comments recommended Ameresco. Walter King asked for clarification about Purchasing Agent Ann Legere's recommendation and Ms. Piekut explained that Ms. Legere concurred with Mr. Peschel.

Walter King moved to select Ameresco. John Whitcomb seconded. Vote: UA

Elena Piekut will provide minutes of the meeting to Ann Legere, who will notify the respondents of the Commission's decision and begin the contracting process. Ms. Piekut will report back to the Commission the details of the process.



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C. Discussion of Renewable Energy Tax Exemption

The group discussed a proposal made by resident Kent Howard at the September meeting to create a tax exemption for renewable energy systems, as permitted by RSA 72:61-72.

Councilor Thibodeaux expressed her desire to gather details and plan ahead prior to proposing a resolution to the City Council. Ms. Thibodeaux explained that the process to enact the tax exemption would include a resolution prepared by the City Attorney, a Council workshop, public hearing, and vote.

The group discussed details such as excluding wood-fired central heating systems as a number of other towns have done, considering applicability to geothermal systems, the relationship to net metering, and using a phased approach beginning with an exemption for senior citizens.

Councilor Thibodeaux planned to meet with the City Manager to discuss the concept.

Cyrus Esmacili agreed to contact the local electric utility to determine how many properties in Dover use solar systems.

Elena Piekut planned to speak with the Assessing Department regarding their current assessment practices and procedural needs if an exemption is enacted.

The group discussed contacting other New Hampshire cities for information on their processes. Chris Keeley will contact the City of Portsmouth, Liz Goldman will contact the City of Rochester, and John Whitcomb will contact the City of Nashua. Questions to be asked include:

- How did the City initiate the exemption?
- How did the City advertise the program?
- What complaints arose?
- How many people have taken advantage of the exemption?

New Business

Chair Keeley asked the group to determine whether to take a month off in November or December. Members agreed to meet in November and take the month of December off.

Next meeting is November 18, 2015.

Motioned by John Whitcomb to adjourn and seconded by Liz Goldman. Vote: UA

Adjournment (6:18)