

ENERGY COMMISSION – MINUTES

Meeting Type: **Regular Meeting**
Meeting Location: **2nd Floor Conference Room – City Hall, 288 Central Ave.**
Meeting Date: **Wednesday, March 15, 2017**
Meeting Time: **5:30 PM**

1. Welcome

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm.

Members present: Chair Chris Keeley, Vice Chair Walter King, Bill Baber, Julie Fournier, Rob Weir

Members absent: Alternate Cyrus Esmaili, John Whitcomb

Others present: Staff Liaison Elena Piekut, City Council Liaison Deborah Thibodeaux, prospective member Otis Perry

2. Citizen's Forum

Great Bay Community College students introduced themselves as observers of the meeting.

Otis Perry introduced himself as a prospective member who has applied for a position on the Commission. Otis currently serves on a few other committees and has a long history of involvement in Dover. He recently installed solar panels at his home.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2017

Julie Fournier moved to approve the minutes of January 18th. Walter King seconded. Vote: U/A with Bill Baber abstaining.

4. Election of Officers

Chris Keeley nominated Walter King as Chair. Bill Baber seconded. Vote: U/A with Walter King abstaining.

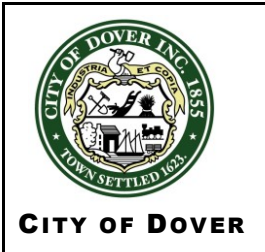
Bill Baber volunteered to serve as Vice Chair. Walter King Seconded. Vote: U/A with Bill Baber abstaining.

5. Staff Update

A. Solar Photovoltaic Project

Elena Piekut provided an overview of the project for new members and attendees. She has sent a letter to Ameresco asking whether the company wants to enter into a renewed agreement (the original 365-day letter of intent having expired in December 2016) given the lack of an increase in the state net metering cap. If they are no longer interested, the City will take a new approach to adding solar to the new Dover High School (which has been designed with rooftop solar in mind) and to the Transportation Center on Chestnut Street.

Bill Baber suggested the City consider owning panels rather than turning the entire project over to a third party. Otis Perry noted that he has encouraged the Dover Housing Authority to install rooftop solar at Waldron Towers. Bill Baber said that both the County Farm and Wentworth Douglas Hospital have also expressed interest in solar installations.



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6. Old Business

A. Energy Star Portfolio Manager

Elena Piekut reported that staff still needs to work with the EPA to retrieve account information. Walter King provided an overview of earlier ideas and efforts to create an internship for the initial analysis and data entry. Julie Fournier noted that the Portfolio Manager website may have included an opportunity for pro-bono services to begin using the program.

B. Energy Action Plan/Report

Rob Weir presented new changes and additions to the report. Discussion ensued regarding the graphs created from data on City and school energy spending. Otis Perry noted that all vehicle fuel is purchased through the State. Chris Keeley asked that the data analysis process be documented, and suggested including some per capita analysis. Walter King and Deb Thibodeaux noted that the substantial savings in 2015 over 2014 may be due to the Ice Arena LED light conversion.

C. Seacoast Energy Hub Update

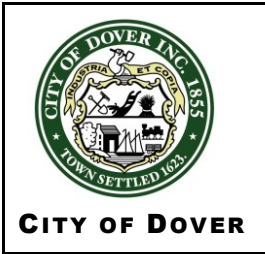
Walter King provided an update on the activities of the Seacoast Energy Hub, particularly its Energize 360 campaign kicking off over the spring. Through an RFP process the group selected Revision Energy and Yankee Thermal Imaging as the participating vendors. The more people who sign up for energy audits and associated home improvements, the better the discounts available to participants. The group discussed sending a letter of support from the Commission and when to hold the Dover kickoff event. Rob Weir moved to approve sending the letter of support. Julie Fournier seconded. Vote: U/A.

7. New/Other Business

A. Resolution to Move Forward on Offshore Wind Development – Presented by residents Daniel Pontoh, Doug Bogen, Stephanie Marshall, Gianna Tempera et al

Dover resident Daniel Pontoh, representing 350NH, Doug Bogen of the Seacoast Anti-Pollution League, and other supporters, made a presentation on the potential for offshore wind power in the Gulf of Maine and asked the Commission to consider forwarding a resolution to the City Council requesting that Governor Sununu ask the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to form a task force to begin planning for offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine.

Bill Baber asked about the federal process and Doug Bogen said the task force process has been estimated at 3-4 years. Chris Keeley asked whether the group is focusing only on Seacoast communities; at the time, they are, but hope to approach inland municipalities and those with a town meeting form of government in the future. The goal is to have multiple municipalities submit letters to Governor Sununu. Chris Keeley suggested connecting with the Coastal Adaptation Workgroup. Walter King asked about the amount of possible power generation and Doug Bogen responded that the goal is installations “on a utility scale.” He said New Hampshire uses around 2000 MW of electricity per day, and that wind can produce that much (though diversified generation sources are still preferable).



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Julie Fournier asked what the State's role in the permitting process is. Doug Bogen responded that the State allows the Federal government to lease the space offshore.

Rob Weir asked how the group has seen municipalities react to the proposed resolution. Doug Bogen responded that it has not been formally presented to any council yet, but that it is a non-binding resolution. Deborah Thibodeaux suggested that the group present to the City Council during a workshop session prior to a vote on the resolution.

Chair Chris Keeley asked that a vote on forwarding the resolution to the Council be scheduled for the April meeting.

8. Adjourn

Rob Weir moved to adjourn. Walter King seconded. Vote: U/A. Adjournment: 7:08 pm.