



CITY OF DOVER

ENERGY COMMISSION – MINUTES

Meeting Type: **Regular Meeting**
Meeting Location: **2nd Floor Conference Room – City Hall, 288 Central Ave.**
Meeting Date: **Wednesday, March 21, 2018**
Meeting Time: **5:30 PM**

1. Welcome

Meeting called to order: 5:30 p.m.

Members present: Vice Chair Bill Baber, Mike Berhmann, Julie Fournier, Otis Perry, Rob Weir, Lisa Logel (Alternate), Walter Milliken (Alternate)

Members absent: Chair Walter King, Zak Koehler, City Council Liaison Deborah Thibodeaux

Other present: Staff Liaison, Assistant City Planner Elena Piekut; Charlie Agnew, Competitive Energy Services; Jenn Andrews, UNH Sustainability Institute

2. Citizen's Forum

Chair Bill Baber opened Citizen's Forum. Resident Susan Smith introduced herself. Resident Henry Herndon introduced himself as Director of Local Energy Solutions for the New Hampshire Sustainable Energy Association. Bill Baber described Henry's involvement in the Energize 360 campaign and noted that the group has decided to grant 100 solar panels to the NH Children's Museum, and possibly to the adjacent Dover Indoor Pool.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2018

Otis Perry moved to approve the minutes as written. Julie Fournier seconded. Vote: U/A.

4. Election of Officers

Bill Baber nominated Walter King for Chair. Otis Perry seconded. Otis Perry moved to close nominations. Vote: U/A

Otis Perry nominated Bill Baber for Vice Chair. Rob Weir seconded. Otis Perry moved to close nominations. Vote: U/A

5. Staff Updates

A. Dover High School Solar Array Request for Proposals – Charlie Agnew, Account Manager, Competitive Energy Services, LLC

Assistant City Planner Elena Piekut provided an overview and history of efforts to date to develop solar on one or more City-owned properties. She introduced Charlie Agnew of Competitive Energy Services, LLC, a consultant to the City.

Charlie Agnew provided an overview of Competitive Energy Services (CES), which focuses on procurement of electricity and natural gas supplies for cities and schools. CES provides this service to the City of Dover and Dover School District, and the agreement with the City has been expanded to include assistance with the development of a solar array for the roof of the new Dover High School. Charlie is assisting in revising the Request for Proposals, reaching qualified respondents, determining project size and type of contract, evaluating respondents, and negotiating final agreements. Specifically, he anticipates



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a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) of at least 15-20 years, with favorable terms for the City. He explained that the City would commit to purchasing all of the electricity produced from the array, while the developer would continue to own the equipment in the interest of taking advantage of a federal tax credit and depreciation. After approximately 7-10 years, a PPA generally offers the system for sale to the City.

Walter Milliken asked about the system's expected lifetime. Charlie Agnew explained that output depreciates over time, and we don't yet know exactly how long the panels can last, possibly 30-40 years. Bill Baber noted that they are warranted for 25 years. Otis Perry noted that the life expectancy is less for the inverter and Mike Behrmann said that replacement should be expected in 10-15 years. Otis Perry asked whether there is a market for the tax credits and Charlie Agnew said that there is and that the developer will partner with an investor. Otis Perry would want to know who the developer's investor is.

Bill Baber explained that although electricity costs may only be reduced slightly, the benefit is in having known costs for many years, and no cost to purchase equipment. He would like to discuss direct purchase of an array, especially because the City can borrow money at such low rates. Mike Behrmann noted that is offset by operating costs such as insurance and maintenance. Elena Piekut added that when ownership was previously considered, Community Services was not able to take on maintenance.

Otis Perry asked about the arrangement for surplus power produced. Charlie Agnew said that we are leaving the arrangement open for developers to suggest and clarified that net metering may be considered. Bill Baber asked about the obstacle of using a third-party electricity supplier, and Charlie Agnew said the City or School would end that supply agreement if needed. He said that the City will not own the high school's electricity account until the building is finished. Elena Piekut pointed out that the contracts are renewed yearly. Bill Baber asked whether there is a good likelihood that a PPA price will be better than the competitive supply price. Charlie Agnew said that there is not, but that with the PPA the City avoids the cost of distribution and transmission charges. Elena Piekut noted that cost is not the only motivation to put solar panels on the High School roof.

Bill Baber asked whether Charlie Agnew has ever been asked to source renewable third-party electricity and Charlie said it has been discussed but not requested.

Discussion ensued regarding timelines and resolution of the bonding issue.

Walter Milliken asked how wind and snow load are addressed, and Charlie Agnew explained that the RFP at this point is broader, considering prices and references, while engineering would become a part of the negotiation process. Mike Behrmann said that they may submit that information if it was determined in developing their proposal, and that usually the system is designed for hurricane force winds. H noted that insurance will come into play if panels are damaged. Walter Milliken noted that this is a very open area and the system will be vulnerable to northeast winds.

Bill Baber asked how many bidders are expected, and Charlie Agnew estimated two to six. Elena Piekut noted that the current RFP requires much less of the respondent than the previous version, partly to invite more responses. Mike Behrmann said he would like to serve as a resource through the process. Discussion ensued regarding Energy Commission representation in selecting a respondent. **Otis Perry**



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moved to request that at least one member represent the Energy Commission in the selection process. Mike Behrmann seconded. Vote: U/A

Bill Baber noted that Community Services Director John Storer is very interested in other opportunities for solar on City-owned properties.

B. UNH Sustainability Fellowship – Measuring Municipal Carbon & Nitrogen Footprints – Jennifer Andrews, Project Director, UNH Sustainability Institute

Assistant City Planner Elena Piekut introduced Jenn Andrews and provided an overview of the fellowship projected planned for the summer. Jenn Andrews noted that Henry Herndon, a resident in attendance, is an alum of the fellowship program. She provided an overview of the UNH Sustainability Institute and explained that some of the world's foremost researchers in nitrogen work are involved with the Sustainability Indicator Management and Analysis Platform (SIMAP). SIMAP has combined N-Print, developed by the University of Virginia, with UNH's carbon footprinting platform. She said that the tool is currently aimed at colleges and universities and is being adapted to serve municipalities, and that it makes sense to integrate the analysis of nitrogen and carbon because they share many of the same sources. She said that Dover is a pioneer for this and will serve as a model for others.

Otis Perry brought up the relationship of nitrogen to the Great Bay and asked about how broad the analysis is. Jenn Andrews explained that the analysis will focus on municipal operations, with the hope of looking at the community as a whole in the future. Otis Perry noted that the City's Environmental Consultant is working with other towns on nitrogen reduction plans. Bill Baber pointed out that point sources are not the largest contributor, but it's difficult to obtain data on non-point sources. Jenn Andrews noted that SIMAP contemplates upstream, non-point sources. Otis Perry said the City is challenged by the federal focus on point sources such as the wastewater treatment facility.

Walter Milliken asked whether there is a way for Planning to work with UNH to gather non-point source data. Jenn Andrews said that the other nitrogen footprint currently being analyzed is being done at the community scale, so in the future we will have a model to look to. Elena Piekut suggested that City staff can obtain or collect data regarding the number of septic systems in the City, stormwater treatment, and impervious surface coverage.

Lisa Logel asked for clarification on whether the EPA Portfolio Manager is also being used. Elena Piekut and Jenn Andrews explained that the fellow may use it, as the same data is involved, while the Portfolio Manager is analysis at a building level while SIMAP is an aggregated analysis. Resident Henry Herndon added that Eversource can now automate data entry into Portfolio Manager.

C. 2018 Energy Report Release

Assistant City Planner Elena Piekut provided a summary of how the report has so far been distributed and publicized. Bill Baber said that he would like to present to the City Council, and Elena will follow up. Discussion ensued regarding the content of the report and goals for next year, such as including conclusions and action items.



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Elena Piekut noted that the summer fellow may be able to utilize FY18 data.

Bill Baber suggested that the Commission form subcommittees to delve deeper into specific areas and asked that it be an agenda item in April.

6. Old Business

None

7. New Business/Other Business

Discussion continued regarding forming subcommittees and keep new data available and organized. Bill Baber suggested it can be discussed with John Storer next month. Elena Piekut suggested making the City Council aware of the Commission's data needs.

8. Member Comments

Walter Milliken asked whether there is data regarding the City's traffic and signalization. Otis Perry suggested checking with SRPC. Elena Piekut said she will check with Sebago Technics, the firm that controls signalization. Bill Baber suggested that this could be an agenda topic.

9. Call for Agenda Items

Bill Baber suggested inviting Parking Manager Bill Simons, and possibly resident Becky Ohler, who works for the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES), to the May meeting to discuss electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Walter Milliken suggested including e-bike charging in the Commission's consideration. Mike Behrmann suggested submitting something in writing to DES regarding the topic and Dover's involvement. He will check in with Becky Ohler about timelines.

Walter Milliken asked about establishing a relationship with the Career Technical Center, and discussion ensued about the solar industry and education.

Mike Behrmann observed that the Commission is doing some strategic planning and suggested setting aside time to focus on it.

Bill Baber shared a document from the Concord Energy and Environment Committee regarding a commitment to 100% renewable energy and asked Elena Piekut to send it to the whole group.

10. Adjourn

Otis Perry moved to adjourn at 7:17 p.m. Vote: U/A.