



CITY OF DOVER

ENERGY COMMISSION – MINUTES

Meeting Type: **Regular Meeting**
Meeting Location: **First Floor Conference Room, City Hall – 288 Central Ave.**
Meeting Date: **Wednesday, January 16, 2019**
Meeting Time: **5:30 PM**

1. Welcome

Members present: Chair Walter King, Vice Chair Bill Baber, Mike Behrmann, Julie Fournier, Zak Koehler, Otis Perry, Lisa Dill (Alternate), Deborah Thibodeaux (Council Liaison)

Members absent: Rob Weir, Walter Milliken (Alternate)

Others present: Elena Piekut, Assistant City Planner (Staff Liaison)

2. Citizen's Forum

None.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2018

Zak Koehler moved to approve the minutes of December 12, 2018 as written. Bill Baber seconded. Vote: U/A.

4. Member Comments

Chair Walter King invited Mike Behrmann to provide a legislative update prior to the later agenda item. Mike noted bills and legislative service requests (LSRs) relative to the expansion of net metering, municipal aggregation, Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) changes, Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) changes to both percentage and classes of clean energy to be required of the utilities, and Renewable Energy Credit (REC) "sweeping."

Bill Baber provided insight into the legislative process and how quickly it can move and noted that Martha Fuller-Clark has sponsored a bill about creating a department of energy. Discussion ensued regarding the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and role of the Consumer Advocate. Discussion continued regarding the process of advocating for or against legislation, and Bill Baber noted the importance of recognizing that there are levels of providing comment: in the first body of the General Court, the second body, and ultimately to the Governor regarding final passage.

Mike Behrmann added that Clean Energy NH has created a municipal membership option. Elena Piekut said that she had shared this opportunity with Assistant City Manager Chris Parker and his only comment about it at this point was the cost of dues. Bill Baber asked her to revisit the subject with him and noted the importance of supporting the organization in addition to taking advantage of their services.

5. Staff Updates

Elena Piekut provided an update on several topics:

- Greenhouse Gas and Nitrogen Inventory Report – The report has been finalized and is available on Planning Department website and will be available in hard copy in the Planning office and Dover Public Library. She shared that Jackson Kaspari was invited to present on his work by a UNH alum at an event on the impact of climate change on asthma.



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- NH Office of Strategic Initiatives Annual Planning & Zoning Conference – Elena reported that she and Community Development Planner Dave Carpenter were invited to present at this conference on June 1st about master planning for energy and climate adaptation topics, similar to the presentation she made to the NH Local Energy Solutions conference.
- Conservation Law Foundation Municipal Roundtable on Climate Action – Elena said she attended CLF's gathering on January 11, which included discussion on reduction of municipal solid waste and increasing recycling rates, the progression of municipal aggregation in the state, and legislative updates. She will continue to attend after the Assistant City Manager's initial participation.
- Networking – Elena reported that an Energy Commission member from Norwich, Vermont reached out after hearing about the UNH Sustainability Fellowship to discuss Dover's work and experience around the greenhouse gas inventory and various steps and best practices toward 100% renewable energy achievement.
- Traffic data – In response to Walter Milliken's idea to analyze data from the City's traffic signals, Elena reached out to the appropriate department. She has not yet received a response but has learned that counts are available from the camera signals, and that a plan and funding is in process to convert all City signals to a camera system. The Assistant City Manager is attending the "traffic light committee" meeting tomorrow and she will learn more.

6. Old Business

A. Staff Position Sub-Committee Report

Elena Piekut told the group that there is no definite commitment from the City Manager yet to include the proposed position in his budget, but that the Assistant Manager will meet with him about it on February 6th.

Councilor Thibodeaux said she brought the proposal up to the rest of the Council and got a good reception. She said the question is how it is funded, and reiterated her proposal that it be a fee-funded position similar to the Building Inspections Division. Bill Baber noted the long-term benefit of establishing these positions and that there are small towns where they have paid for themselves. Otis Perry expressed his concern that requiring fees would make the person akin to an inspector, dealing with the results of policy rather than the establishment of policy. Discussion ensued regarding the position and its impact on operations. Zak Koehler reminded the group of the idea of including milestones that must be achieved in a contract. Bill Baber noted that savings demonstrated by Hartford, VT's implementation of a position. Walter King asked Elena Piekut to share with the group the positional proposal put together by the Assistant City Manager.

7. New Business

A. 2019 Goal Setting

Walter King led the discussion with his wish to approach the residential and business angles of energy topics in addition to municipal. Otis Perry suggested reaching out to the owners of large complexes, as



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well as the Dover Housing Authority, about rooftop solar. Zak Koehler encouraged pushing for more solar on public properties, more bike lanes, and working alongside other communities. Walter King noted the group had previously reviewed Durham's checklist of energy considerations and could work on doing something similar. Otis Perry suggested that rooftop solar could be required as an architectural design regulation. Mike Behrmann suggested reviewing the Epping regulations that incentivize solar. Otis Perry also suggested that the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority could be involved in new construction projects. Bill Baber pointed out how much of Dover's residential properties are rental units, and wants to think about how to incentivize landlords to improve efficiency or on-site generation. Council Thibodeaux suggested that the Council could create a sustainability committee to take on additional, related topics and noted the strong desire to serve among Dover residents.

Motion: Bill Baber made a motion to formally request that Councilor Thibodeaux make such a proposal to the Council. Mike Behrmann seconded. **Vote:** U/A

Otis Perry asked how many people would serve and what exactly the group proposes, saying this should be developed first.

Motion: Zak Koehler made a motion to form a subcommittee of the Energy Commission to develop such a proposal for Councilor Thibodeaux to bring forth. Otis Perry seconded. Bill Baber agreed to withdraw his first motion. Discussion ensued about how to interact with other boards and commissions. **Vote:** U/A

A subcommittee of Zak Koehler, Otis Perry, and Lisa Dill was formed.

Mike Behrmann said the group should not lose sight in 2019 of the option to commit to becoming 100% renewable energy powered.

Walter King brought up the topics of hydro power and electric vehicles and discussion ensued regarding the Cochecho Falls dam.

8. Other Business

Elena Piekut reminded the group that there will be a solar installation ribbon cutting at the Children's Museum/Indoor Pool February 20th at 11:00 am.

9. Member Comments

See previous.

10. Call for Agenda Items

None.

11. Adjourn

Otis Perry moved to adjourn at 6:45 pm. Zak Koehler seconded. Vote: U/A.