



CITY OF DOVER

ENERGY COMMISSION – MINUTES

Meeting Type: **Regular Meeting**
Meeting Location: **First Floor Conference Room, City Hall – 288 Central Ave.**
Meeting Date: **Wednesday, February 20, 2019**
Meeting Time: **5:30 PM**

1. Welcome

Members Present: Chair Walter King, Vice Chair Bill Baber, Mike Behrmann, Zak Koehler, Julie Fournier, Walter Milliken (Alternate), Otis Perry, Rob Weir, Councilor Deb Thibodeaux (Council Liaison)

Members Absent: Lisa Dill (Alternate)

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

2. Citizen's Forum

None.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2019

Otis Perry moved to approve the minutes of January 16, 2019 as written. Mike Behrmann seconded. Vote: U/A

4. Staff Updates

Elena Piekut provided brief updates on that morning's solar array ribbon cutting at the Children's Museum of NH and Dover Indoor Pool as well as a grant the City is receiving to upgrade traffic signals. She provided links to information on the grant prior to the meeting. She noted that the Greenhouse Gas and Nitrogen Inventory report is available to the public. She said that the proposal to add an Energy Planner staff position remains in the budget and she will have more information about the City Council's budget meeting schedule. Discussion ensued regarding the process and when it would be best for the Energy Commission to advocate for the position.

Mike Behrmann asked if Elena had further discussed joining Clean Energy NH with the Assistant City Manager and she said she still needed to revisit it.

Bill Baber mentioned that the Clerk of the Works position (to transition to a Project Manager position upon completion of the Garrison Elementary School renovations) in the Community Services Department has been filled. He asked Elena to invite this new staff person to the March meeting in order to learn about her responsibilities and vice versa.

5. Old Business

A. "Sustainability Commission" Sub-Committee Report



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Zak Koehler said the committee has focused on what a Sustainability Committee or Commission would look like, and considered examples from in and out of state. Otis Perry visited the Lee, NH Sustainability Committee to understand their mission and functions. Otis said the subcommittee is not ready to present something formal, but has been looking at ideas for the group's mission and who its members might be. He said the members should primarily be liaisons to other boards and commissions. Elena Piekut pointed out the value in having so many boards and commissions connected year round, not just at the annual meet and greet.

Otis Perry said they are still discussing whether the group could be structured as a commission, which can have a budget. The City Attorney is looking into what is possible. Otis said the Lee committee has existed for three years and has a budget of \$1,000 for programs and printing, but no staff support. They have a strong initiative to promote backyard farming. He said they should have more information at the next meet.

Discussion ensued about other communities and which ones might be similar to Dover. Bill Baber suggested contacting UNH's Sustainability Institute for recommendations of other communities with similar committees. Mike Behrmann suggested reviewing the Climate Adaptation Chapter of the Master Plan and speaking with Community Development Planner Dave Carpenter.

B. 2019 Goal Setting

The group reviewed a document prepared by Bill Baber regarding the energy efficiency of rental properties. Otis Perry said he attended a presentation by the Community Development Finance Authority about low-income housing tax credit-funded development. He also said the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority can facilitate energy audits but is more focused on energy conservation in existing systems.

Bill Baber said Community Action Partnership has its own energy efficiency program. He noted that the return on investment on low income housing efficiency improvements is great. He said the benefits to low income residents is also large and the money they save is spent in the local economy. He would like to educate renters on how to select rentals thoughtfully and work with landlords on efficiency improvements. Increasing the energy code requirements could also help. He suggested it would be a good project for a subcommittee. Otis Perry would like to reach out to owners of multifamily and low-income housing properties.

Walter Milliken suggested working with UNH on their apartment listings, and Rob Weir suggested that students could self-report their utility costs. Elena Piekut noted that there is a New England Municipal Sustainability Network working group on improving rental properties.

Bill Baber said that there is a bill in the legislature the amount of funding available for energy efficiency projects, with the funding source being renewable energy credits (RECs). Walter Milliken suggested that there may be local banks willing to do small loans for these types of projects. Bill said there is also the CORE program available through the utilities, providing inexpensive audits and qualification for state grants.



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Bill Baber also noted that with so much new housing for students in Durham, it feels as though there are fewer students in Dover. Elena Piekut said her understanding is that there are fewer undergrad students and more graduate students.

Discussion ensued regarding data collection and who could form a subcommittee. Julie Fournier and Mike Behrmann offered to be on the committee and Bill Baber said he could join beginning in April.

Walter King shared his goal of implementing an Energy Considerations Checklist similar to that used in Durham, which involves the Energy Commission in the planning process to new buildings. Discussion ensued regarding applicability and levels of review at which the checklist might be used. The group agreed to clarify the goal to be a collection of data at the Technical Review Committee and Planning Board level. Rob Weir suggested the checklist may quickly become obsolete. Mike Behrmann suggested adding battery storage and electric vehicle charging to the checklist.

Mike Behrmann noted that there is legislation (SB 284) to create a statewide online energy data platform administered by the PUC, and that the Commission might be able to propose amendments to help it suit their data collection purposes.

Chair Walter King and Elena Piekut agreed that she would discuss with staff and set up a meeting to review further.

Zak Koehler explained that his top three goals are to 1) work on the formation of a sustainability committee, 2) identify additional locations for solar arrays, and 3) evaluate fleet and identify opportunities for vehicle replacement. Walter King noted that some work has already been done in evaluating City properties for solar siting. Discussion ensued led by Bill Baber and Mike Behrmann on group net metering/community net metering and the challenges of record keeping.

Mike Behrmann brought up the large solar developments that will be occurring in the state (up to 50 megawatts) as “virtual” or “sleeve” power purchase agreements. He said Dover could be an offtaker and that offtakers are needed before these large projects can be financed. Discussion ensued regarding the effort to adopt municipal aggregation, the large size of the projects resulting in classification as power suppliers, and the relationship to ISO New England and the New England Power Pool (NEPOOL). Discussion also ensued regarding offshore wind and its potential to affect economic development in Dover. Bill Baber asked who will be appointed to the Governor’s board on offshore wind development and his hope that Dover can be represented on this task force.

Elena Piekut shared Lisa Dill’s goal to work on hosting an educational event. Elena said she would put together an initial document regarding these goals, and noted that the work the Commission has been undertaking is beginning to feel like an Energy Chapter of the Master Plan.

Walter Milliken led a discussion on traffic data informed by the new that the City is receiving a large federal grant to replace a number of traffic signals with state of the art controls, which will also collect data. He is interested in quantifying the impact of traffic on the City’s carbon footprint. Elena Piekut suggested that Baltimore may have considered this in their community-wide inventory and said she would ask the Deputy Community Service Director and/or Sebago Technics to come to the Energy Commission when their plan for the signal improvements is in place.



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6. New Business

None.

7. Other Business

None.

8. Member Comments

Mike Behrmann noted that he was told the Dover High School solar installation will be completed in early spring, maybe May.

Bill Baber said that Revision is working with the Children's Museum to design an exhibit and possible programs.

9. Call for Agenda Items

None.

10. Adjourn

Otis Perry moved to adjourn at 7:12 PM. Zak Koehler seconded. Vote: U/A