



ENERGY COMMISSION – MINUTES

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

1. Welcome

Members present: Chair Walter King, Julie Fournier, Zak Koehler, Otis Perry, Rob Weir, Lisa Dill (Alternate), Walter Milliken (Alternate), Deborah Thibodeaux (City Council Liaison)

Members absent: Bill Baber, Mike Behrmann

Others present: Elena Piekut (Assistant City Planner, Zoning Administrator)

2. Citizen's Forum

None.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2019

Walter Milliken moved to approve the minutes of February 20, 2019. Otis Perry seconded. Zak Koehler noted that he should have been listed as present. Vote: U/A

4. Staff Updates

Elena Piekut shared that she had further discussed municipal membership to Clean Energy New Hampshire with the Assistant City Manager. He suspects that the City Council will need to approve membership as the organization conducts lobbying/advocacy work. Discussion ensued.

Otis Perry moved that the Commission request that the City Council join Clean Energy New Hampshire as a dues-paying member. Zak Koehler seconded. Discussion ensued, including the consideration that the Commission itself become a member. **Vote:** U/A.

Elena Piekut shared that Community Services Director John Storer and new Clerk of the Works Stephanie Parsons plan to attend the April 17 meeting in order to discuss her future transition to a facilities management role.

Elena Piekut said that there was no budget news to report but that she would share with the Commission if she heard about changes with regard to the proposed Energy Planner position.

Elena Piekut said she would be discussing Durham's Energy Considerations Checklist with members of the Technical Review Committee the following morning. Walter King asked that one consideration be establishing a role on the committee for an Energy Commission member.

5. Old Business

A. "Sustainability Commission" Sub-Committee Report

Zak Koehler reported that per the City Attorney's recommendation, there should be a Sustainability Committee under the Energy Commission and that they could begin drafting bylaws. Otis Perry clarified that



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state statute doesn't allow the creation of a sustainability *commission*, but that if it was a subcommittee of the Energy Commission it would have similar authority through the Commission.

Discussion ensued regarding the role of the committee, such as involvement in master planning, or advocating to the City Council for best practices through the Energy Commission, or exploring trash and recycling options for the City. The group also discussed how the committee might be structured and its adherence to the RSA 91-A public meeting laws. There is an expectation that a member of the Energy Commission would be part of the subcommittee and report back to the Commission. It was decided that the current committee will draft a scope of responsibilities for a Sustainability Sub-Committee.

B. 2019 Goal Setting

Elena Piekut provided a written summary of material and notes from the previous meeting's discussion for the Commission's review. Walter Milliken added the topic of addressing traffic congestion, and he and Elena agreed to introduce him to Deputy Community Services Director Bill Boulanger in order for them to connect on the traffic signal replacement project currently in development.

Walter King asked that the group add a goal regarding approaching 100% renewable energy sources in the community. Zak Koehler said that should be an aspect of all of the Commission's goals and activities, and pointed out that there are many ways to approach 100% renewable or zero-carbon goals. Walter King suggested another subcommittee formed with Julie Fournier and/or Rob Weir to continue work on a recurring energy report. Discussion ensued regarding community-wide data versus municipal data, and the relationship of Dover students to climate change concerns.

Lisa Dill provided more detail on her state goal to achieve more outreach and engagement through an event engaging businesses and people of all ages. Walter Milliken suggested pursuing a sponsored project through the schools. Walter King asked whether the event could be rolled into the broader 100% renewable campaign. Lisa Dill pointed out that an event could be an opportunity to understand more about energy matters in residential properties in the community. Otis Perry noted that there should be information online about the City's real-time solar electricity generation.

Discussion ensued regarding whether a Ready for 100 goal should be an individual goal or an overall goal. Zak Koehler suggested a separate group for working on the annual energy report and Rob Weir and Julie Fournier offered to participate.

The group reached consensus that the listed goals constitute their goals at this point that that pursuing 100% renewable energy sources should be added as an overarching goal. Otis Perry moved to establish those goals as follows:

1. Improving energy efficiency and increasing use of renewable energy in rental units.
2. Implement an energy considerations checklist in site plan and subdivision review process.
3. Establish a Sustainability Sub-Committee.
4. Identify additional locations for solar arrays on municipal properties.
5. Evaluate municipal fleet and identify opportunities for vehicle replacement.
6. Host a community engagement to educate and create awareness around energy topics.
7. Evaluate feasibility of commitment to Ready for 100 goal.



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Walter Milliken seconded. Vote: U/A

Walter King asked that a goals discussion be added as a regular agenda item.

6. New Business

None.

7. Other Business

None.

8. Member Comments

Zak Koehler led a brief discussion on relevant legislative developments.

9. Call for Agenda Items

None.

10. Adjourn

Otis Perry moved to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. Zak Koehler seconded: **Vote: U/A**