



CITY OF DOVER

ENERGY COMMISSION – MINUTES

Meeting Type: **Regular Meeting**
Meeting Location: **First Floor Conference Room, City Hall – 288 Central Ave.**
Meeting Date: **Wednesday, April 17, 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, Rob Weir, Walter Milliken (Alternate), Deborah Thibodeaux (City Council Liaison)

Members Absent: Lisa Dill (Alternate)

Others Present: Elena Piekut (Assistant City Planner, Staff Liaison), John Storer (Community Services Director), Stephanie Parsons (Project Manager)

2. Citizen's Forum

None.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2019

Otis Perry moved to approve the minutes of March 20, 2019 as written. Zak Koehler seconded. **Vote:** U/A

4. Staff Updates

A. NH Energy Week Municipal Energy Champion Award

Elena Piekut shared that the City was awarded 2019 Municipal Energy Champion as part of New Hampshire Energy Week. Mike Behrmann provided some details on the organization, which includes partners such as Community Development Finance Authority, New Hampshire Municipal Association, Environmental Defense Fund, The Nature Conservancy, among other groups and businesses. Chair Walter King congratulated the Commission for its role in winning the award.

B. Energy Planner Position

Elena Piekut explained that the proposed Energy Planner position was not included in the budget that the City Manager has presented to the Council. The group discussed the limitations of the City's tax cap, how it may be lifted, and how best to advocate for keeping the new position in the budget. Bill Baber offered to speak at the Council meeting and Mike Behrmann said he could address it from his professional perspective working with other municipalities. Zak Koehler said he would consider speaking in favor.

C. Other

Elena Piekut explained that she presented the Durham Energy Considerations Checklist to the Technical Review Committee and that while there was not substantial support for moving forward with something similar, the Assistant City Manager directed members to review the checklist, as there are many elements that are already part of the technical review or other processes. A report will be returned to the Commission.



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Elena explained that the Drive Change Drive Electric campaign approached her about their effort to promote electric vehicles by featuring downtown (near the public charging station) businesses. She said it was a partnership between electric vehicle automakers and the state air quality agencies in each of the New England states, New York, and New Jersey. Bill Baber made a motion of support for the initiative. Mike Behrmann seconded. **Vote:** U/A

Bill Baber offered to introduce the campaign to the Government Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Commerce. Elena offered to put Bill in touch with the campaign organizers.

Elena also introduced the group to a joint effort by Eversource and Unitil to promote efficiency upgrades to downtown businesses later in the spring.

Elena reported that Dover will be hosting day two of the biannual New England Municipal Sustainability Network meeting on May 31. She said she would ask if members of the Commission working on energy efficiency for rental properties could join the working group break out session dedicated to that topic.

Mike Behrmann asked about progress on the question of the City joining Clean Energy NH as a municipal member. The group explained a vote was taken at the previous meeting requesting that Councilor Thibodeaux present it to Council. Discussion ensued regarding the role of Clean Energy NH in lobbying and/or advocacy and whether a City Council decision is necessary. Otis Perry offered to draft a resolution for Councilor Thibodeaux.

Zak Koehler moved to hear item six on the agenda prior to item 5. Bill Baber seconded. **Vote:** U/A

5. New Business

A. Community Services Discussion – CS Director John Storer and Stephanie Parsons, Project Manager

Bill Baber recognized the contributions of John Storer and Recreation Director Gary Bannon made in accomplishing the installation of a solar array on the Children's Museum/Indoor Pool roof. John Storer introduced Stephanie Parsons, a new project manager in the Community Services Department. He explained that her responsibilities involve capital improvement projects, particularly buildings. After the Dover High School and Garrison Elementary School projects are complete, the chapel at Pine Hill Cemetery will be renovated and a new facilities and grounds building will be constructed adjacent to the cemetery. Additional projects will include replacing the Transportation Center roof and an expansion of the North End Fire Station. Stephanie previously worked for UNH. She will be implementing an asset management program for buildings including energy-related assets.

Discussion ensued regarding Stephanie's experiences at UNH, concerns about energy efficiency and reviewing the total cost of both building and operating a facility over time, and conducting life cycle assessments. Bill Baber spoke to the importance of building relationships among different staff and departments. Discussion ensued regarding Community Services' relationship to the schools.



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John Storer addressed concerns that his staff can't accommodate certain energy projects now, such as participating in a load shedding and deferred demand pilot with Eversource. He said they have software and policies to assist but have been unable to add staff time to use them.

Elena Piekut asked about the time frame for a new facilities and ground building. John Storer said design/build would occur this summer.

Walter King asked about the feasibility of building on Jackson Kaspari's work using EPA Portfolio Manager. Walter Milliken noted that water and sewer pumps are big energy consumer and asked about whether there is fine grain data about their use; John Storer said there are simply monthly bills, but that they have obtained a grant for sewer asset management that could assist with better auditing the stations. He pointed to an example where a pump was discovered to be running at only 65% efficiency. He added that six or seven accounts have time of use meters. He further discussed active demand reduction, the obstacle presented by not being able to use backup generators for load shedding, and some ideas about how to program HVAC systems to improve loads. Walter King asked that the Department share updates as they make progress.

John Storer said the City is beginning to fully realize the savings of its LED streetlight retrofit. Bill Baber asked about their smart controls and John explained that they have been troubleshooting a few lights and going through software upgrades and resolving details. He is hoping tariffs will change to that the billing will be accurate. Walter Milliken suggested recognizing employees who have done well in improving energy use and John said he has made an effort at employee recognition. Mike Behrmann offered to assist where there is interest in pursuing new technologies. John Storer noted plans at the wastewater treatment facility to improve evaporation and dewatering so that sludge can be incinerated.

6. Old Business

A. Sustainability Sub-Committee Report

Zak Koehler and Otis Perry discussed that they will be proposing a subcommittee including members of other boards and commission, which would "piggyback" on the Energy Commission's charge. It would also include a member or two from the general public. They need a little more time before making a formal proposal. The group discussed how goals would be set and how to have an effective subcommittee charged with such a large topic. Walter Milliken suggested having the group focus on one goal at a time, perhaps with the membership composition changing with the specific goal. Zak Koehler provided some information about the Cambridge Sustainability Committee's approach to gathering best practices and said they are focused on plastics and recycling. Discussion ensued regarding Dover's recycling program.

B. 2019 Goals Update

The Commission reviewed goals that had been finalized at the previous meeting. Julie Fournier, Mike Behrmann, and Bill Baber agreed to form a subcommittee around energy efficiency in rental units. Elena Piekut said she would inquire about whether the subcommittee members could attend the working group portion of the New England Municipal Sustainability Network meeting hosted in Dover on May 31st, which include a group dedicated to the same topic.



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Zak Koehler had identified a goal of siting additional solar arrays on municipal properties. Elena Piekut said that the City does have a contract to that end with Gaia Energy, but it is a bit on the backburner as the latest net metering bill makes its way through the legislature.

Regarding the goal of improving the municipal fleet, Walter Milliken questioned whether the group should advocate for Community Services' increased staffing to handle this project. Bill Baber said he would rather prioritize the Energy Planner proposed by the Energy Commission.

At the previous meeting, Lisa Dill said she would more fully develop her idea for holding a community event.

The group discussed the overarching 100% renewable energy community goal that they have explored. They discussed the availability of energy use data and state level data from the Energy Information Administration that can be used to estimate numbers for Dover's population.

Mike Behrmann recused himself due to his association with Revolution Energy but suggested the Commission investigate virtual power purchase agreements, where the City acts as an offtaker of a larger (10-20 MW) system that is not necessarily located in Dover. Discussion ensued regarding municipal aggregation and the bill currently in the legislature and the path through which a municipality can create its own electric utility.

7. Other Business

None.

8. Member Comments

Walter Milliken brought up that traffic signal data/analysis would help with calculating community's energy use in transportation sector. Elena Piekut is helping Walter schedule a meeting with Community Services. Bill Baber asked that any analysis consider the possible benefits of traffic circles/roundabouts over signalization.

Rob Weir announced that as his term is up, he will not seek to be reappointed to another term. Chair Walter King thanked Rob for his service, particularly in preparing the most recent Energy Report.

Mike Behrmann noted that he has encouraged including Dover as a member of the Offshore Wind Energy Task Force and that the City might be contacted about who to assign to that seat.

9. Call for Agenda Items

None.

10. Adjourn

Zak Koehler moved to adjourn at 7:28 pm. Rob Weir seconded. **Vote:** U/A