



CITY OF DOVER

ENERGY COMMISSION – MINUTES

Meeting Type: **Regular Meeting**
Meeting Location: **First Floor Conference Room, City Hall – 288 Central Ave.**
Meeting Date: **Wednesday, July 17, 2019**
Meeting Time: **5:30 PM**

1. Welcome

Members Present: Chair Walter King, Vice Chair Bill Baber, Mike Behrmann, Zak Koehler, Walter Milliken, Otis Perry, Vincent Lyon (Alternate), and Becky Ohler (Alternate), Deborah Thibodeaux (City Council Liaison)

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

2. Citizen's Forum

None.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2019

Otis Perry moved to approve the minutes of May 15, 2019 as written. Zak Koehler seconded. Vote: U/A

4. Staff Updates

A. NH 100% Renewable Energy Municipal Gathering

Assistant City Planner Piekut reported on her attendance at this gathering in Concord on June 21st. Topics of focus included Concord's 100% Renewable Energy planning process and municipal aggregation.

B. Eversource Community Solar Program

Assistant City Planner Piekut explained that the City Manager has asked her to meet with representatives of Eversource as well as the Executive Director of the Dover Housing Authority to discuss Eversource's Community/Low Income Solar program. Otis Perry noted that DHA's properties at Central Towers and Waldron Towers have been audited. Discussion ensued regarding the Commission's role. Elena said it would depend on what projects are ultimately proposed, as the Housing Authority is not a City department and the Commission may not have a role to play.

C. NHDES Coastal Resilience Grant Letter of Support

Assistant City Planner Piekut explained that the Planning Department and Community Services Department, with assistance from the Strafford Regional Planning Commission, are applying for this grant. They are asking for the Commission's support due to the link between the one of the proposal's outcomes—increasing street trees in the downtown—with a reduced heat island effect. Otis Perry moved to support the grant application. Mike Behrmann seconded. Vote: U/A. Elena will provide a final draft for the Chair's signature.



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D. Gaia Energy

Assistant City Planner Piekut explained that Gaia and Planning staff have not met since Gaia's presentation to the Commission. However, a separate project was proposed through the same principal (Clay Mitchell) to evaluate City properties for combined heat and power potential. Elena received initial analyses for the McConnell Center, Indoor Pool, and Ice Arena earlier that day and will distribute to the group for review. Discussion ensued regarding the combined heat and power technical assistance program, and the balances between different approaches to efficiency, fuel source, and on-site generation through waste heat.

E. Other

Assistant City Planner Piekut reported that she has been invited to participate in a panel discussion at UNH's 6th annual Nitrogen Footprint Workshop in August, as a result of Dover's 2018 establishment of a nitrogen footprint for municipal and school operations.

5. Old Business

A. Sustainability Sub-Committee Report

Zak Koehler and Otis Perry presented an update and overview of their proposal to create a Sustainability Sub-Committee. The group discussed various aspects of the proposal, including: incorporating Master Plan goals, recognizing existing community efforts and City sustainability work, whether to advocate for a subcommittee or a dedicated new committee, educating on and recognizing best practices, membership structure, and whether to take a project-based approach.

Zak Koehler will update the document for Elena Piekut to circulate. Elena will find out about the origins (and dissolution) of Sustainable Dover.

B. 2019 Goals Update

The group briefly discussed the status of goals they have established. Assistant City Planner Piekut will redistribute the list and keep this as an agenda item for discussion in August.

Mike Behrmann noted that he would like the Commission to have a booth at Apple Harvest Day. The group decided that worst case scenario, they could participate in the Planning Department's booth. Walter King asked that an agenda item be added to address the content of a booth, and asked for the formation of a subcommittee. Mike Behrmann, Zak Koehler, and Vincent Lyon volunteered.

6. New Business

Otis Perry reported what he had learned about a low income housing tax credit program and suggested that because the program is competitive and administered by the NH Housing Finance Authority, there may be a way to use it to encourage the use of solar.



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Bill Baber asked Becky Ohler and Mike Behrmann for updates from the state Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy (EESE) Board. Becky gave a brief overview and explained that the EESE Board is advisory to the PUC and utilities on the design and implementation of energy efficiency programs.

Walter Milliken brought up the difficulty of collecting private utility data and asked whether the Commission could work through the EESE Board to get access to data. Discussion ensued regarding the data collection bill that should create a database, the idea that people may volunteer their energy bills, how other states handle data collection, and the need to educate renters.

7. Other Business

Bill Baber asked that when Elena Piekut meets with Eversource, to ask about the Durham microgrid project and ask that they visit the Commission to discuss the community solar program.

8. Member Comments

None.

9. Call for Agenda Items

None.

10. Adjourn

Otis Perry moved to adjourn. Mike Behrmann seconded. Vote: U/A