



CITY OF DOVER

ENERGY COMMISSION – MINUTES

Meeting Type: **Regular Meeting**
Meeting Location: **First Floor Conference Room, City Hall – 288 Central Ave.**
Meeting Date: **Wednesday, August 21, 2019**
Meeting Time: **5:30 PM**

1. Welcome

Members Present: Chair Walter King, Mike Berhmann, Zak Koehler, Otis Perry, Rebecca Ohler (Alternate), Deborah Thibodeaux (Council Liaison)

Members Absent (Excused): Vice Chair Bill Baber, Julie Fournier, Walter Milliken, Vincent Lyon (Alternate)

Staff Present: Elena Piekut (Assistant City Planner, Zoning Administrator)

2. Citizen's Forum

None.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes of July 17, 2019

Otis Perry moved to approve the minutes of July 17, 2019 as written. Mike Berhmann seconded. Vote: U/A.

4. Staff Updates

A. Eversource Community Solar Program

Elena Piekut reported on her meeting with Eversource and the Dover Housing Authority regarding Eversource's community solar pilot program. The pilot proposal is not yet approved by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), but if it is the City of Dover will be able to work with a developer to propose a project whereby the production of solar will benefit low income customers in Dover who are enrolled in the Electric Assistance Program through a credit on their bills. Overriding the 5MW net metering may also affect the program as it is proposed. Mike Behrmann also provided some insight into the program. Elena share the PUC docket number, 19-104, and will share with the group via email.

B. Gaia Energy Solar Analysis / Combined Heat & Power Analysis

Elena Piekut explained that Gaia will not return to speak with the Energy Commission until September, but will be able to address both topics at the meeting. It is expected that the Commission will be asked to vote to support moving forward on the two small projects that will be easiest to execute, solar arrays at the wastewater treatment facility and/or roof of the Transportation Center. By the September meeting there may have been a vote to override the net metering cap veto, which affects potential larger projects. Discussion ensued regarding array sizes and cost effectiveness, the structure of a bid, and other opportunities such as adding solar to the City's pump stations and Community Services building. Mike Behrmann brought up committing to a 100% renewable energy goal, and Zak Koehler suggested that the group should prepare to consider its goals for 2020.



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C. Nitrogen Footprint Workshop

Elena Piekut reported on her presentation to the 6th Annual Nitrogen Footprint Tool Workshop group at UNH. She joined a panel of UNH representatives to provide a municipal perspective to attendees working on nitrogen research from colleges and universities across North America. She shared relevant research from the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole and a community-wide nitrogen footprint of Baltimore completed through the University of Virginia. Discussion ensued regarding emissions regulations and their relationship to nitrogen impacts.

D. Other

Elena Piekut informed the group that the Dover High School solar array ribbon-cutting with Revision Energy will be held Thursday, September 19, from 4:00 to 5:00 pm.

5. Old Business

A. Sustainability Sub-Committee Report

Zak Koehler reported that he had added some comments to last month's document and would send it to Elena Piekut for distribution. The group discussed the proposed changes and varying ideas on the committee's membership combination. Walter King advocated for including a representative of the Chamber of Commerce and/or Dover Business and Industrial Development Authority (DBIDA). Otis Perry advocated for a representative from Community Services, and Councilor Thibodeaux suggested Facilities Projects Manager Stephanie Parsons.

B. 2019 Goals Update

Mike Berhmann shared an update on plans that he, Zak Koehler, and Vincent Lyon are suggesting for the Energy Commission's presence at Apple Harvest Day. They are interested in displaying the City's first electric vehicle and using a map to gather input on locations for charging stations. The group discussed other initiatives to highlight and the possibility of recruiting for the sustainability committee. Walter King suggested presenting a timeline of the City's energy-related accomplishments and engaging a career-technical center student who could speak to Revision's education program. Mike Berhmann would like to show real time generation from the high school array; Elena Piekut will look for a link to that display.

There was no update from the energy efficiency for rental units working group.

Elena Piekut will bring back the Energy Considerations Checklist with an update of how some aspects are already implemented by the City. She noted that the change in Energy Code at the state level may also affect this.

The group discussed opportunities to improve the municipal fleet, particularly with Volkswagen settlement funds. Becky Ohler noted that the City can take advantage of the state's vehicle bidding process if it knows what vehicles to specify. Elena Piekut will look into obtaining data about the current fleet. The group also discussed electric buses and the need for an idling policy.



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6. New Business

A. Dover 400th Celebration – Zak Koehler

Zak Koehler said that the 400th Celebration Committee has an idea about looking at Dover 400 years into the future, and would like to work with the Energy Commission to see if there will be a big project that will affect that future to unveil or highlight in 2023.

B. Traffic Signal Updates and Data Collection

Walter Milliken was not available to report on his meeting with Deputy Director of Community Services Bill Boulanger.

7. Other Business

None.

8. Member Comments

None.

9. Call for Agenda Items

None.

10. Adjourn

Zak Koehler moved to adjourn. Mike Berhmann seconded. Vote: U/A