



CITY OF DOVER

ENERGY COMMISSION – MINUTES

Meeting Type: **Regular Meeting**
Meeting Location: **First Floor Conference Room, City Hall – 288 Central Ave.**
Meeting Date: **Wednesday, January 15, 2020**
Meeting Time: **5:30 PM**

1. Welcome

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

Others Present: City Councilor Dennis Shanahan, Barrett Miles

2. Election of Officers

Chair Walter King said he was willing to step aside as Chair and invited nominations. Mike Behrmann nominated Bill Baber as Chair and Zak Koehler seconded. Vote: U/A. Bill Baber nominated Otis Perry as Vice Chair and Zak Koehler seconded. Vote: U/A. Bill Baber chaired the remainder of the meeting.

3. Citizen's Forum

Barrett Miles introduced himself. Elena Piekut invited him to attend as a potential new member. Barrett has lived in Dover for two-and-a-half years and has worked in the renewable energy industry for five years.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2019

Zak Koehler moved to approve the meeting minutes of December 18, 2019. Mike Behrmann seconded. Vote: U/A.

5. Staff Updates

A. Renewable Energy Tax Exemption – Councilor Dennis Shanahan

Councilor Dennis Shanahan provided an overview of Resolution #R-2019.09.11-159, regarding Real Estate Tax Exemption for Residential Solar System Installations, which was passed by the City Council September 11, 2019. Due to a change in state law involving applicability to off-grid and net-metered systems, it needs to be revisited in 2020. Discussion ensued regarding applicability to battery storage, other renewable sources such as wind and geothermal, and how to apply or incentivize the exemption for commercial and rental properties. Discussion also ensued regarding the adopted \$30,000 cap on the exemption and whether it is appropriate, as well as the City's tax assessment process for the systems. Bill Baber and Otis Perry suggested that Clean Energy New Hampshire provide assistance to municipal assessors. The group agreed to do further research and assist Councilor Shanahan with a recommendation for revisiting the resolution in 2020.

B. Land Use Board Meet & Greet Review

Elena Piekut thanked members for attending the 2020 Land Use Board Meet & Greet.



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C. Request for Proposals – Solar Power Purchase Agreement

Elena Piekut reported that she had forwarded members' comments to Chris Parker and that he chose to add the Ice Arena and Community Services facility to the request for proposals. He plans to release it before the end of the month.

D. Staff Position Proposal

Elena Piekut reported that the position request remains in the proposed budget. At this time it is expected that the budget will be presented to the City Council March 25 and the Planning and Community Development Department budget specifically will be presented April 1, which would be the best time for Commission members to voice their support to the Council.

E. Reporting on Energy Use

Elena Piekut said that she is putting together energy use data on the Ice Arena for Assistant City Manager Chris Parker, in a format similar to that used by Johnson Controls in their reports. This may continue for other facilities and aid in the Commission's reporting duties.

F. Conservation Law Foundation Municipal Roundtable

Elena Piekut will be attending the roundtable meeting on January 31st. The meetings often focus on relevant legislation and efforts occurring in member municipalities.

G. Other

Elena Piekut said that Mike Behrmann provided a proposed Commission Budget and worked with Chris Parker to incorporate it into the Departmental Budget. This includes additional funds for printing, professional development, and membership to Clean Energy NH.

Elena also handed out a draft of amendments to the Small Wind Energy System Ordinance (Section 170-21 of the Zoning Ordinance) to create an overall Alternative Energy Ordinance. The proposed amendments are intended to be "jumping off points" for further discussion. Commission members are asked to review and comment on the document in preparation for discussion at the February meeting.

6. Old Business

A. Sustainability Sub-Committee

Bill Baber said that he finds addressing the broader topic of sustainability to be very important, but more than the Energy Commission is capable of taking on, and suggests re-engaging the committee to develop a proposal to address this need. He pointed out that Julie Fournier has resigned but is willing to help with specific projects. He asked Commission members to organize themselves into two working committees: Renewable Energy Tax Exemption (Mike Behrmann, Vincent Lyon, Bill Baber, Susan Smith) and Sustainability (Zak Koehler, Walter King, Otis Perry). Discussion ensued regarding right-to-know law and the posting of committee meetings. Bill and Elena Piekut will follow up with clarification.



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B. Annual Goals Review

This item will be addressed at the next meeting.

C. Energy Report

This item will also be addressed at a later date.

D. Budget

This item was addressed in Staff Updates.

7. New Business

None.

8. Other Business

None.

9. Member Comments

Bill Baber asked whether there is an update on the State's request for proposals for statewide electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Becky Ohler said nothing will be made public until after a respondent is chosen and finalized. The group discussed requiring installation of charging stations and Elena Piekut explained how this is incentivized through the Site Review Regulations.

Mike Behrmann said he would like to revisit making a commitment to a 100% renewable energy goal for Dover.

Bill Baber asked members to think about people they may want to invite to visit a Commission meeting as a way to learn more about their area of expertise.

The group also discussed ways to incentivize commercial solar arrays, asking developers to review options with the utilities, a new net metering bill, solar electricity generation to date at the Dover High School, and the progress of the NextEra solar project proposed in Fitzwilliam.

10. Call for Agenda Items

None.

11. Adjourn

Otis Perry moved to adjourn. Zak Koehler seconded. Vote: U/A.