



CITY OF DOVER

ENERGY COMMISSION – MINUTES

Meeting Type: **Regular Meeting**
Meeting Location: **City Council 2nd Floor Conference Room & Chambers,
City Hall – 288 Central Ave.**
Meeting Date: **Wednesday, June 17, 2020**
Meeting Time: **5:30 PM**

1. Welcome

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

Members Absent (Excused): Vincent Lyon (Alternate)

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

2. Citizen's Forum

None.

3. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of February 19, 2020

Otis Perry moved to approve the minutes of February 19, 2020 as written. Zak Koehler seconded. Vote: U/A.

4. Staff Updates

A. Request for Proposals – Solar Power Purchase Agreement

Elena Piekut reported that a RFP for three municipal sites—the new Facilities and Grounds Building, the Transportation Center, and the Wastewater Treatment Facility—is about ready to be released. The group discussed the importance of ensuring a good response and how including more properties, such as the McConnell Center, Community Services building, pumps stations, landfill, or future Pudding Hill Well filtration building, might ensure a better response due to economies of scale. Elena will review and issue the RFP with these considerations in mind. She also reported speaking to a prospective developer of “utility scale” solar evaluating sites in Dover.

B. Staff Position Proposal

Elena Piekut reported that due to the budget implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, the proposed Energy Planner position was not funded in the FY 2021 budget.

C. Energy Reporting – EPA Portfolio Manager

Elena Piekut will catch up with Vincent Lyon about this, as he was recently trained on connecting the Portfolio Manager platform with City electricity accounts and was provided some data. She also mentioned that the PUC has opened a docket on creating a statewide utility data reporting platform. Bill Baber noted the importance of looking at the municipal fleet in addition to facilities.

D. Community Power New Hampshire – Presentation at July meeting



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Bill Baber explained that Community Power is a mechanism for procuring a third-party electricity supply for the entire community, not just the municipality. Elena Piekut said she has confirmed that Clean Energy NH would be available to speak to the Commission about the program at the next meeting on July 15th, 2020 and asked Councilor Thibodeaux to invite Councilors Williams and Shanahan who have expressed interest.

E. Clean Energy New Hampshire Membership

Elena Piekut said that with the Planning Department's FY 2021 budget approved, the City can become a member of Clean Energy NH as planned in July.

F. City Facilities' Solar Electricity Generation Update

Elena Piekut said she had included this agenda item at Otis Perry's request but had not had a chance to get an update before the meeting. Zak Koehler provided the numbers directly from the online dashboards: to date, the Indoor Pool and Children's Museum of NH have produced 108.94 megawatt Hours, while the High School has generated 659.29 megawatt hours (resulting in a savings of more than one million pounds of carbon dioxide). Zak reshared the links in an email to the entire commission.

Mike Behrmann suggested these figures be equated to a dollar figure and Otis Perry suggested that the be reported each month and included in meeting minutes.

G. Other

Bill Baber asked to jump ahead to discussing item 6B, regarding HB 1218, An Act Relative to Net Metering. He, Otis Perry, and Walter King wrote a personal letter to the City Council because the Commission was unable to meet, and the Council unanimously passed a resolution urging passage of the bill. However, Bill explained that due to interruptions in the NH General Court's schedule and a failure to change the rules, the bill won't advance in this session.

5. Old Business

A. Goal: Sustainability Committee

Chair Bill Baber led the group in a discussion of progress to this point and the goal of holding a forum for multiple boards and commissions to discuss sustainability goals. He will follow up with Assistant City Manager Chris Parker.

B. Goal: Updating Energy Report

Bill Baber noted that performing the energy commission's duty of reporting on energy is important to the above effort to address sustainability throughout the city.

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6. New Business

A. Utility Data Platform Docket

See above.

B. Letter to Council/Resolution Re: HB 1218, An Act Relative to Net Metering

See above.

C. Updating the Community Facilities and Utilities Chapter of the Master Plan

Elena Piekut and Bill Baber asked the Commission to provide a representative to this committee of the Planning Board. Otis Perry said he was willing if no one else was interested; Bill Baber said he would like to be on the committee and Otis deferred to Bill. Elena said the first committee meeting will be held Tuesday, June 30th at 9:00 am.

7. Other Business / Member Comments

The group discussed its vacancy and clarified that Susan Smith is now a regular member.

Mike Behrmann brought up the impact of the pandemic on jobs in clean energy and the question of how that industry engages with chambers of commerce. Becky Ohler noted that the clean energy sector can also provide a path out of recession both by creating jobs and reducing people's expenses. Walter King highlighted the importance of being able to identify the most significant sources of waste in the city. Zak Koehler noted the opportunity for the high school and career technical center to tailor curriculum to workforce needs. Bill Baber suggested the Commission prepare to discuss offshore wind manufacturing opportunities with Economic Development Director Dan Barufaldi.

Bill Baber asked Becky Ohler for an update on the Department of Environmental Services' effort to promote fast charging stations on transportation corridors. She reported that there were no responses to the request for proposals but that they received feedback and will reissue it.

8. Call for Agenda Items

None.

9. Adjourn

Walter King moved to adjourn. Zak Koehler seconded. Vote: U/A.