

Minutes of the Durham Energy Steering Committee Meeting
Wednesday, August 1, 2007
6:30 AM
Durham Town Hall Council Chambers

Members Present: Nat Balch, Toby Ball - Chairperson, Don Brautigam, Diana Carroll - Council Representative, David Cedarholm - DPW Representative, Filson Glanz.

Members Absent: Kevin Gardner - UNH Representative, Vasiliki Partinoudi(Vaso), Paligarnal Vasudevan (PT)

Others Present: Mark Morong - Town Councilor

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Toby Ball about 6:40 AM. Also, handouts were passed out: Global Warming card about October 12/13 2007 conference; Copy of "Wind Farms: Windfall or Wipeout?" paper.

2. Agenda Presented and Minutes Reviewed:

The Agenda for today was presented and additions solicited. The Minutes of the July 6, 2007 meeting were reviewed and discussed. A few minor changes were made: Times 7:30 AM and 7:40 AM were changed to 6:30 AM and 6:40 AM. Also in page 2, paragraph 2, line 5 - "Vasi" was changed to "Vaso."

3. Reports

a. Carbon Coalition Energy Committee Workshop - Vaso, Diana. Delayed until next meeting because Vaso not present.

b. Meeting on Mill Plaza project - Don, Kevin, Diana. Diana, Kevin, and Don met with Maura Adams of the Jordan Institute. The following topics were discussed: Green space, Black top, Energy(PV, geothermal, etc.), Facets of Mill Plaza Project(MPP) land, Architects' interest in land, LEED certification.

Table of MPP Committee list of ideas. Don B. has this list.

Parking lot and water runoff: Too much blacktop. Can water be returned into ground water system? Problem is clay subsoil in Durham. Suggestion to do what Google did with their parking lot - put a photovoltaic panel cover on the lot to generate power and cool the lot; snow load may be a problem.

Three design teams of architects will come up with designs for the plaza given town desires as of now. Hope is to have a decision by end of the year.

Don B brought up how we as a committee should function and interact with the MPP. What is our role? Conclusion was that a subcommittees would do the interacting. Nat B. mentioned the Carbon Challenge. The steering Committee will evolve in some way: subcommittees will be generated in time. Diana C. volunteered to be the liaison person w/ MPP Committee, as did Don B. and Nat B.

How far are we on our Mission/Goals/Objectives? 50%? Toby B. related this to Agenda item 4a.

4. Upcoming Events

a. Presentation of Mission Statement and Objectives to Town Council
Comment that objectives will evolve. Information flow from and to MPP subcommittee group: Don, Diana, Nat.

Toby mentioned that the NE Grass Roots Environmental Fund grant applications will be due September 15. We'd need to present to the Town Council at Aug. 20 meeting. Diana will mention at the Roundtable part of the meeting. We might want to apply for an intern with money to do energy/GHG audits? Talk to Sheryl King-Fisher.

Dave C talked to Ihab Farag about his class evaluating another town building (they did the Town hall last year) in terms of the Energy Star Program of the EPA. Other possibilities are Police Department, Public Works which would not be very easy. These energy audits are a benchmark tool. Town hall got a 74 rating on the Energy Star scale of 100 max. Not that bad, but one wonders if it made sense to be so good?? Dave commented that we'd need an intern with professional training to pull the whole thing together about auditing Town's energy use.

b. Clean Air - Cool Planet conference in October. Two days October 12 and 13, 2007. This is a Heads Up. See green handout card.

5. Communications from the Solid Waste Committee

The Solid Waste Committee seems to be tending toward wanted to be a subcommittee of the Energy Steering Committee. Mark M. commented that when he was on that committee they had decided that they had too many things to do to work on the energy component. Dave C. mentioned that the Transfer Station is a redundant system. Nat B. commented that Tuesday Aug. 14 the Solid Waste Committee will meet in the T. Council Chambers at 7:30 AM and we should have people visit them then. Dave C. commented that the Integrated Waste management Committee should/could undertake the handling of the sewage sludge and disposal, and even the storm water runoff problem. Is it true that Durham does not have a Storm Waste Water Committee?

6. Committee Objectives - continuing last meeting's discussion

Mark M. commented that the committee should come up with a format for our "objectives." Toby B. responded with a comment about where we are so far with this. These objectives need to be prioritized: i.e. objectives must become action items. Nat B. suggested that we do homework before next meeting to sort out the objectives.

Time ran short!

NEXT MEETING: August 15 at 6:30 AM in Town Council Chambers.

Post comments:

Committee web site: List of names; Jen Berry will set it up; then objectives will be put on it.

Diana C. says we should get the easy hanging fruit.

Nat B. says Durham Community Church is thinking of putting photovoltaic panels on the educational building behind the church. This is in the Historic District so there is some question on this.

Meeting ended about 8:00 AM

Minutes submitted by Filson Glanz