

Durham Energy Steering Committee
Wednesday, August 29
6:30 am
Durham Town Council Chambers

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Toby Ball, Committee Chair
Vaso Partinoudi
PT (Vasu) Vasudevan
Filson Glanz
Diana Carroll, Town Council Representative
David Cedarholm
Don Brautigam

Absent:

Kevin Gardner, UNH Representative
Nat Balch

Guest: Tobias Maquette Rochester Energy Committee
Jerry Needell, Town Council Representative

1. Call to Order at 6:40

2. Acceptance of minutes of August 15, 2007 meeting

A few names and details were corrected. Minutes approved as amended.

3. Approve Mission Statement and Objectives to present to Town Council

The Mission Statement and Objectives were approved and will be presented to the Town Council by Toby and David.

4. Early project ideas and formation of project groups

Vaso presented her findings regarding companies performing home energy audits in the Durham area. She will contact all of the companies listed in the NHDES website to find out more about them.

The members of the committee discussed topics/areas of importance and interest to the committee and project groups were formed based on the interests of individual members

The topics chosen to be tackled and the members assigned to them are:

- Transportation: D. Cedarholm and P.T. Vasudevan
- Green Building: K. Gardner, D. Brautigam and F. Glanz
- Educational Effort: V. Partinoudi and N. Balch
- Conservation and Alternative Energy for Town Facilities: D. Carroll and T. Ball

Diana and David suggested that we approach people in town facilities and ask them that they include energy efficiency as a topic in their future meetings. This way, town employees can get involved in the effort to save energy and make significant decisions by themselves. David recommended that it would be useful if town employees made evaluations and recommendations for their own area. David mentioned that we need to ask the town to set money aside for newer/better fixtures and light bulbs that will help reduce energy consumption in town buildings.

David provided some information on the San Francisco bike ride lane project and suggested that we contact the DOT and encourage them to construct more bus and bicycle lanes.

David had several ideas to encourage alternative commuters such as the need for a commuter/ ride share parking lot in Durham, a commuter or bus lane, and the need to revisit the old bike trail from Durham to Madbury to Portsmouth idea and drawings.

Fil will find out if Madbury has an Energy Committee and Toby will contact the Lee Energy Committee and find out their interests and concerns.

Tobias suggested that the committee needs to investigate the energy consumption baseline of the town and mentioned Portsmouth and Rochester had an EPA intern gather the information for them. The committee agreed that this is a priority area.

David mentioned that PSNH worked with the Durham Waste Water Treatment plant and although equipment was changed to better conserve energy in the building, the success was limited. The Town Hall building was also inspected by PSNH and although it received a high rating further work needs to be done.

Diana recommended that the committee needs to work closely with the Town Planning Board on the Green Building Ordinance and to use volunteers from other boards and committees in order to achieve the best results.

Jerry Needell recommended that the group working on the educational effort contact the Oyster River Carbon Challenge to exchange ideas and find areas where their efforts could be combined. He also suggested considering the relationship between recycling and possible energy savings.

Dianna brought up the publication/newsletter published by the Integrated Waste Committee and suggested that we investigate the possibility of collaborating with them and adding Energy topics. The committee members agreed that a meeting should be planned in the near future.

The next Town council meeting is planned for October 1st and the committee decided that it would be an opportunity to present to them the progress made by the committee so far.

5. Upcoming NEGEF grant

The committee agreed that we need to apply for an NEGEF grant. Toby will write the proposal.

6. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:00.