

Minutes
The Durham Energy Committee
December 5, 2007
6:30 AM Durham Town Hall Council Chambers

Members Present: Toby Ball, Diana Carroll, David Cedarholm, Filson Glanz., Paligarnal Vasudevan (PT), Nat Balch, Don Brautigam

Members Absent: Kevin Gardner, Vasiliki Partinoudi, Mark Morong

Others Present: Jerry Needell

Minutes Taker: Don Brautigam

1. Initial informal discussion:

Toby mentions he will be meeting with Dale Valena (Oyster River Carbon Challenge) at Young's Restaurant at noon on Friday – anyone welcome.

Toby has drafted a summary of Energy Committee for Town Report – any feedback requested by today before submission.

2. The meeting was formally called to order by Toby at 6:40 AM.

3. Agenda Presented and Minutes Reviewed:
Minutes for Nov 7 - passed

4. Feedback on Durham Energy Committee presentation to Durham Planning Board

- Kevin, with several Energy Committee (EC) members present, made power point presentation "Green Buildings and Durham" to Planning Board (PB) on 11/28/2007
- Toby: residential mandates a problem; too fixated on Epping comparison; focus on "ordinance" skewed conversation;
- Nat: "70's" example, indoor atmosphere problems, etc; state law for commercial building code (energy conservation scoring system, ranking of energy efficiency (energy star)) - already enforced by Durham
- Diana: Issue of energy conservation as spelled out in state commercial building code should be examined and brought to attention of Planning Board (PB); thought EC had good responses at PB meeting; PB had opportunity to vent
- Jerry: part of the role of PB should include energy planning
- Fil: issue of Global Warming should be emphasized
- Diana: handed out DVD of Clay Mitchell's presentation to all PB members (presumably, at following PB meeting)
- Toby: PB wants list of issues to be addressed by any future Energy document (guidelines, ordinance, etc)
- Nat: although PB presentation focused on building aspect, LEED also involves other issues (neighborhoods, etc)

- Jerry: piggybacking on Nat's comments, points out that everything must trace back to Master Plan (MP) - MP might be good starting point; look to see if anything in there for leveraging energy plan
- Dave: thought Epping ordinance was a "knee-jerk" reaction to course of development in Epping
- Jerry: no follow-up or enforcement provisions in Epping ordinance
- Toby: Seacoast Energy Alliance, meeting in Jan – to be focused local energy committees

5. Follow-up to PB meeting

- Toby: to begin work on energy inventory of Durham town buildings
- Nat: meet with Tom Johnson - how does new state energy code impact his code enforcement?
- Jerry: inform PB what Tom Johnson is already doing, Tom may have valuable commentary - maybe he could come to PB meeting; maybe he could suggest areas where Zoning Ordinance could be supplemented to help his job
- Dave: PB has quarterly meeting - EC should plan on presenting progress report each quarter; can't push pace
- Diana: EC should get back to Jim Campbell; set aside time for discussion for PB planning session - like another hour in Feb - bring Tom Johnson in?;
- Don: will set up Feb quarterly meeting with Jim Campbell

6. NEGEF grant and issue of ICLEI tool:

- Toby exchanged emails with Kevin - Kevin will line up student to do inventory and take on student advisor role
- NEGEF didn't provide money to buy ICLEI; other inventory tools available; Toby will talk to Krista of CA-CP about other tools
- Jerry raised issue of ICLEI membership: in order for town to join ICLEI, EC must get town council permission since membership would imply overt support by town - not clear of approval (irregardless of \$600 annual fee) - must be well presented to town council; who joins ICLEI – is it the town or energy committee? Should consult with Todd Selig to get his reaction
- Dave suggested that maybe he could get town engineering division to join ICLEI to acquire inventory tool.
- Toby will talk to Krista about inventory tool - do we really need it, or will some other tool suffice?
- Toby will present to Town Council about accepting grant from NEGEF – will clarify what the commitments are and if there are any strings attached. Must be clear to TC what's expected; will send brief paragraph to Jen
- Toby and Dave will talk to Todd about joining ICLEI before Jan 1 because budget will be closing.

7. Diana – raised clothesline issue. Several private developments (Spruce Wood, Fitz Farm, etc) may have clothesline as long as neighbors can't see it and can't see from road. At PB meeting it was raised that there are new developments proposed for Canney and Bagdad roads and now is the time to consider changing rules. PB showed very little interest in doing anything. In response, two Durham citizens (Jessie McKone and Chuck Baldwin) wrote letters to PB about changing rule which prompted the builder (Mr. Calderola) to strike clause from association so that now clotheslines are allowed. Diana wanted to emphasize what small efforts by citizens can do – illustrates the power of an email or phone call.

8. Other -

- Diana: Town Council recap- considering \$5 registration fee on cars, can be used for transportation (highway, bike paths, matching grants, etc). Will be public hearing and if approved will raise \$32k annually to be used for town road program; Diana would like to see used for bike path; Dave - would like it to be used to relieve town parking crunch (compensation to church, etc); Toby – perhaps could assign percentage for different programs.

- Diana: TC wrote letter to Governor regarding plan to work on road corridor between Durham and Newington which would widen bridges from 4 to 8 lanes.

- Nat would like support for website development software; Toby will look into funding for Adobe Dreamweaver; Dave: Luke (Durham webmaster) is pursuing RFP to set up new user-friendly website host.

- Nat emailed Tom Kelly (director of UNH sustainability program). Vaso and Nat will meet with Tom after finals to discuss potential for working with town.

- Fil, Dave: UNH student presentations to be made soon: Prof. Ihab Farag's class presenting results from Fire House energy audit; Prof. Cameron Wake's class offering ways to cut Green House Gas emissions.)

- Jerry: reminder regarding Clay Mitchell's wiki-based (interactive) website at nhenergy.org

- Mill Plaza meeting tonight

9. Next Energy Committee meeting planned for Wed Jan 9, 6:30 AM.

10. Adjourned meeting at 8:00 AM.