

Durham Energy Committee Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2008
Durham Town Hall Council Chambers
7:00 PM

Members Present: Toby Ball, Diana Carroll, David Cedarholm, Filson Glanz, PT Vasudevan , Nat Balch, Don Brautigam, Vasiliki Partinoudi (Vaso), Kevin Gardner

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 6:35 a.m. and the agenda accepted (9 – 0).

2. **The minutes** of 12/4/07 were approved with corrections (9 – 0).

3. Energy Inventory:

-- The Town Council voted to accept the grant of money received by the Energy Committee from the New England Grassroots Environmental Fund.

-- Kevin said that Scott Coutier, a UNH student, is ready to begin the town energy audit project that will be funded by the grant received from the New England Grassroots Environmental Fund (NEGEF). He will oversee the project.

--Kevin went on to say that a decision has to be made on what kind of software to use for this energy audit. A discussion ensued naming various software packages that might be used. Toby said that he would check with Krista Kohler to see what software she is familiar with for this kind of project. In speaking to the use of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) software, Kevin said that with the purchase price, services to towns are included. This can be very important and helpful.

4. Communication with the Public

-- Diana suggested that the committee make use of the Friday Updates by having links to articles that Durham residents could read about Green Buildings, what other communities are doing to reduce energy consumption, etc.

--Vaso said that she and Nat have been talking about this and other ways to communicate with Durham residents.

--Kevin noted that we should be aware of copyright issues if we are going to use magazine or journal articles.

--Nat said that articles could be compiled first.

--Kevin added that with a useful categorization of articles they could be used, i.e., solar hot water, background on green zoning, etc.

--Nat shared that Julian Smith (Town Council, Conservation Commission) was suggested as a candidate for proofreading documents the committee may prepare.

--Toby asked if we need another layer in the process.

--Dave said that Julian helps out proofreading the Town Annual Report.

--Diana suggested that whatever articles are made available to the public through Friday Updates, for example, should match the work the Energy Committee is doing at that time.

--Vaso said that she and Nat had planned to put in tips for energy use and conservation in the weekly Friday Updates.

--Dave said the Durham Public Library is also a good repository of information on energy for the public that we could make use of.

--Nat noted that there is a lack of space at the library so that might restrict our efforts in this area.

--Nat added that getting the website going is a priority.

--Don suggested that maybe we could link Clay Mitchell's www.nhenergy.org to the Durham Energy Committee's website and visa versa.

5. Moving Forward with Green Building Suggestions/Guidelines/Ordinance and 6. Working with the Planning Board

--Don said the subcommittee has not met because of the Holidays. He said maybe a summary should be put together showing current energy use in Durham.

--Kevin responded that we cannot get the information, i.e., how much oil residents use or their electrical use. The data on electricity use is all lumped together – residential, commercial and industrial.

--PT explained the contract that he is part of in his neighborhood for about 50 families in which the families buy their heating oil in bulk. He found that on average a family used 1,000 gallons a year for a 4 bedroom house.

--Dave said that the first green building is being planned for Durham. It is a mixed use – residential and retail – on Rt. 155 by Perry Bryant. Maybe he should be given information on energy conservation standards that have been recently updated by the state of NH and are mandatory. If these energy conservation standards are good and Perry's team follows them in the construction, then our job as an energy committee is already done.

--Kevin said it would be helpful to have residents talk about these green ideas to the Planning Board. He said Rob Sullivan who used to work for Chinburg Builders has said he would consider serving on an energy committee subcommittee. He has lots of expertise in the building area.

--Diana suggested that we may want to contact Perry Bryant and talk with him and his staff about their green building. And since this project is on the

agenda for the Planning Board this evening (1/9) we can watch the meeting on DCAT Channel 22 and get some background on the project.

--Kevin suggested that maybe, if builders start building green buildings, we will not need regulations/zoning for green buildings.

--Dave said that there is no guarantee that all builders coming forth will build green so Durham does need regulations.

--Kevin suggested that Durham could set some expectations for builders and so voluntarily get people to change to green building practices.

--Toby asked if there were any incentives that the town could give to builders who build green?

--Don responded that the builder and future residents of the building will save money and that should be a big incentive. And when realtors show a residence and say that it is an Energy Star house/apartment/condo then that would be a big plus.

--Kevin added that energy cost must be disclosed when someone is purchasing a house/apartment/condo which gives the buyer information that they need.

--Diana suggested contacting individual Planning Board members and having coffee with them as an opportunity to begin more dialogue.

--Don suggested that maybe after next February's Planning Board meeting when the Energy Committee will have an hour to present/enter into discussion with the PB we could contact PB members about meeting with them individually.

--Dave suggested that maybe a phone call would be sufficient.

--PT suggested that if we do this, all PB members should be contacted.

--Don asked what questions the Planning Board had when we met with them in November.

--Kevin said we may need to check the minutes or video.

7. Reports and other business

--PT talked about an article on how residents can use biodiesel for Friday Updates or to use as a Community Commentary in Fosters.

--Dave said he met with Dave Garvey about a possible park and ride facility at Stone Quarry.

--Diana asked if it was time to bring up/bring back plans for a bicycle path. Discussion followed.

--Nat and Vaso are working on the web page.

--Nat announced that the Granite Earth Institute is starting a class at the Durham Public Library on Global Warming.

--PT suggested changing our meeting time. It was agreed to change it to the first Monday of the month from 4:30 to 6:00 at the Town Hall.

8. There was a motion and second to **adjourn** with a vote of 9 – 0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 a.m.