

Durham Energy Committee
Minutes of June 2, 2008 Meeting

Attendees:

Toby Ball (Chair)
Dave Cedarholm (DPW representative/Town Engineer)
Don Brautigam
Fil Glanz
Kevin Gardner
Nat Balch
Vaso Partinoudi
Doug Clark
Absent: PT Vasudevan, Diana Carroll

The 5/5/08 meeting minutes were approved as amended:

Doug Clark was introduced. He is the Town Council representative to the Energy Committee.

There has been some further discussion of the IWMAC and DEC combining. The following comments pertain to this discussion:

1. Toby talked to Chuck Baldwin, after listening to J. Smith's comments. Toby and Chuck agreed that there is no need to combine the 2 committees.
2. The Town needs to figure out a way combine all the committee agendas and help things move faster.
3. Chairmen/women of the committees should occasionally meet and discuss topics of interest to each committee and see if it is possible to collaborate.

The committee discussed progress to date and members agreed that things have been moving much slower than originally anticipated. Many small steps have taken place but the committee needs to maintain momentum. It was suggested that it might be advantageous at this stage to choose one specific project and take it all the way instead of working on many small projects. The committee needs to identify possible projects that will have an impact to the community and that will increase public awareness and interest.

With respect to Durham now being in Zone 6, the committee agreed that it is important to ensure that green buildings projects take place and not just talk about building green buildings.

Nat mentioned that as a committee we need to concentrate on local issues. Dave mentioned installing a wind turbine on town property and suggested that we should hire a consultant who

will provide us with a cursory study of several town properties, such as Beech Hill and Wagon Hill. Kevin mentioned how few bike trails there are in Durham and the need to have more. This is a topic that needs to be discussed with the Conservation and recreation committee. Dave reminded the committee of the existing bike trail plans associated with the Stone Quarry TIF.

Don met with Jack Farrell with regard to inserting a chapter on energy into the Master Plan. Jack pointed out that the MP exists to influence the direction of future ordinances, and that unless there are proposed ordinances dealing with energy conservation, etc, he saw little reason for introducing a new section on energy. Instead of developing new ordinances, he thought that affecting the existing housing stock (through education or special town initiatives) would have the greatest impact.

A Planning Board meeting is scheduled for the 11th of June and it would be helpful if committee members could participate in that.

Members reviewed various portions of the MP with regard to energy, as follows:

Chapter 1: Toby Ball: Demographics, Housing, and Growth Management

Chapter 2: Toby Ball: Sense of Community and Town Facilities

Chapter 3: Fil Glanz: Downtown and Commercial Core

Chapter 4: Fil Glanz: Environmental and Cultural Resources

Chapter 5: Recreation

Chapter 6: PT Vasudevan: Transportation

Chapter 7: Nat Balch: Public Utilities and Services

Chapter 8: Jerry Needell: Tax Stabilization

Chapter 9: Diana Carroll: Land Development Regulations

Chapter 10: Vaso Partinoudi: University Relations

Several members wrote summaries of their readings and distributed them to the committee members via email. As the Durham Master Plan (MP) was discussed by the committee, we concluded that energy is barely mentioned in the current Master Plan and that it needs to be incorporated in each and every chapter of the MP. The current MP predicts that the town will be build out by 2028. With that date in mind we have to be proactive and forceful if necessary when decisions are made. It is going to be part of the job of this committee to help the people understand that there are many benefits to them from the town becoming greener. Some of

those benefits are financially beneficial to the citizens. Vaso commented that Energy has to be included in all aspects of the MP and if possible a chapter should be added that deals exclusively with energy. This would require approval from the planning board and public input would most likely be required.

The DEC members agree that we must explore ways to collaborate with the Economic Development, Parks & Recreation, IWMA and Conservation committees. Together we must find ways to illustrate how the world has changed in the past 10 years and what needs to be done in order to take advantage of these changes and to achieve long-term energy viability and security.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 PM.