

**Durham Energy Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, June 23, 2008**  
**4:30 PM**

**In Attendance:**

**Members:**

Toby Ball (Chair), Dave Cedarholm (DPW Representative/ Town Engineer), Don Brautigam, Fil Glanz, Nat Balch, Vaso Partinoudi, PT Vasudevan

**Others:**

Diana Carroll, Robin Mower (arrived 5:45 p.m.)

**Absent:**

Doug Clark (Town Council Representative), Kevin Gardner

**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m.

**II. Minutes.** The minutes from the June 2, 2008 meeting were approved as amended.

**III. Energy Chapter of the Master Plan.**

Nat: said he sent his summary notes on Chapter 7 of the Master Plan directly to Kevin, not to the entire committee

Toby: said the purpose of this project was to peruse each chapter of the Master Plan to see how it connected to energy, what is there that refers to energy. He said Kevin now has all the summaries.

Toby: said the Planning Board gave us the job of developing a plan on the process of how an energy chapter should be prepared so that it can be incorporated into the Durham Master Plan

Vaso: asked if any other communities have developed an energy chapter for their Master Plan

Toby: responded by saying "probably not" as the NH Legislature just passed the bill that makes it possible for the first time for communities to have an energy plan in their Master Plan

Toby: said that he sees our task as two fold 1) process 2)content. The process (what the PB asked us to decide and report back to them about) is to decide our role in this task, how we are going to get the public involved, how the information for the chapter will be gathered, who will write it

Don: suggested that the public could be invited to our committee meetings to make input

Toby: said this project should be undertaken by the whole committee not by a subcommittee – it is a big job and we need everyone's input, help

Toby: suggested that we break down the job into parts, components

Don: reminded the committee that the final outcome will have to be presented to the Planning Board and they will have to accept it

Fil: suggested that we need a prologue to the chapter then guidelines of what we are aiming to accomplish, goals. It would be important to suggest a direction. After this is done in the chapter we can get into details like insulation.

Dave: suggested that we also describe the status of today

Nat: reminded the committee that New England is more oil dependent than other US regions

Dave: said we need an outline of what would be included in the chapter on energy for the Master Plan and that the broad goals in the chapter would address problem areas

PT: asked how long does a Master Plan last and noted that many ideas in the current Master Plan, i.e., transportation have not been implemented

Nat: suggested that we include federal, state and local goals

Diana: suggested that the committee get the public involved in this conversation early

Don: Kevin could give an update, a report to the Planning Board at every meeting

Toby: can get other people to be at our next meeting to discuss this project like members of the OR Carbon Challenge

Nat: said New England is more oil dependent than other region of the US

Don: suggested that someone needs to do a short outline or summary for this project of writing an energy chapter for the Master Plan

Nat: followed Don's suggestion by encouraging committee members to email their ideas

PT: said that the increase in cost for energy is going to hurt people

Nat: said we could get an idea of how much energy is being used in Durham i.e. how many household use oil, natural gas, wood, propane, etc.; how many kilowatts are used in Durham  
PT: asked what are our choices for the future

Fil and PT: said that the content of the chapter should include: residential, transportation, commercial, town, industrial and agricultural energy use

Toby: asked that all email be sent by Monday and that he and Fil will collate them

???someone said that at the last meeting Doug Clark said he was interested in bicycle paths and wind energy

Fil: suggested that the downtown businesses could have just one heating source rather than every building have its own furnace

#### **IV Other Projects**

--Educational materials for Durham residents to be kept at library:

Fil: Asked the committee if they thought there should be a bookshelf file holder (he showed an example of one) kept at the Durham Public Library to hold articles that could be available for residents to read and learn more about energy and climate change issues.

He asked the committee how articles should be chosen to go into this file. Does the entire committee want to see/review all the articles that go into this holder?

Nat: suggested that since he and Toby are on the educational subcommittee, they could coordinate this task

Don: asked how the public will know there is a file containing these articles that they can read

Fil: said he was talking w/the director of the library, Tom Madden, about this.

Toby: suggested that members bring articles that they would like to include in this file to committee meetings where they can be collected

Vaso: suggested that articles not be political. Since most articles would probably be from science journals, they would not be political. She suggested that this collection of articles, available to the public could be advertised on Friday Updates.

Fil: suggested that there be two file folders: one for articles on energy and one for climate change

Nat: said ASHRA materials could be included

Don: said the series of ICC codes is already available in the Durham Public Library's reference section

Toby: asked that materials be brought to the next meeting or get them to Nat or himself

--Zoning

There was reference made to the three zoning changes that have been initiated by Neil Neiman, Town Council, that the Planning Board just held a Public Hearing on and how this fits into the DEC's work as there is a connection between zoning and energy usage

Fil: asked if the DEC should evaluate the consequences of the proposed zoning changes and determine if they will contribute to sprawl

Nat: informed the committee that there will be a meeting Thursday (6/25) evening at the Community Church, called by Peter Anderson to discuss the proposed zoning changes

Fil: asked if we should take a stand on these proposed zoning changes as individuals or as a committee

Nat and Fil: said these issues of rezoning impacted transportation and might have an effect on sprawl

Don: said that we would need to study these proposed zoning changes before deciding on taking any action

Fil: will talk to Kevin about these issues since he is particularly interested in the impact of zoning and Kevin is currently serving as an alternate to the Planning Board

Nat and Fil: said that they hoped to attend the meeting Thursday evening

Dave: suggested that energy issues be kept separate from other environmental issues especially if a response from the DEC is drafted then noted that there are issues to deal with such as is it better to centralize development rather than spread it around, which is better an office park or residential district.

Fil: regarding the land owned by Jack Farrell under consideration for development, said that the greenway potential needs to be investigated for that site

## **V Annual Report to the Town Council**

Toby: said that by July 11 he needed to give a written report on what the DEC has accomplished this year and what the goals are for next year. This report will be placed in all councilor's packets. He will then present the report and answer questions at the TC meeting of July 21.

## **VI Reports**

Nat: distributed the Alternative newsletter he wrote to be placed on Friday Updates. Committee members were asked to review the newsletter and email Nat with any suggestions, corrections.

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Toby: said the newsletter will be on the next meeting's agenda so we can vote to have it placed on Friday Updates

PT: said that since the newsletter was written/compiled by Nat, it should have his name on it

Robin Mower: gave the committee some internet resource sites that should be helpful to the committee's work

**VII The committee adjourned at 6:00 p.m**

**The next DEC meeting will be July 14 from 4:30 – 6:00 in the Town Council Chambers.**