

Minutes of the Durham Energy Committee
February 2, 2009
Town of Durham Council Chambers

Members Present: Nat Balch, Don Brautigam (Chair pro tem), Doug Clark, Filson Glanz (Secretary pro tem)

Members Absent: Vasiliki Partinoudi, David Cedarholm, Kevin Gardner (chair), Mike Hoffman

Others Present: Robin Mower, Diana Carroll, Stephen Burns, Kevin Carpenter, Jerry Whiteleather

1. Call to Order at 4:40 PM
2. Approval of minutes of January 19, 2009. Doug moved and Nat seconded. The minutes were approved.
3. Don projected the 10 Steps to being a Transition Town which was triggered by a Dennis Meadows comment at last meeting. Comments by Don and Nat on where we go from here.

Nat thought that the Master Plan has dominated our activities and suggested that we get to some point and then start to do other things. This might reduce the frustration of many who feel we are not making much progress. Some discussion of Dennis's comments.

Robin suggested that energy audits might be another project we should undertake.

Don also suggested that we put Action Items with names next to them to remind people of things they will do for next meeting.

Doug commented that we have made progress; we should consider the situation. (we have done a Durham green house gas inventory, talked to the Planning board twice about plans to change the climate zone of Durham - the State has made the change for us, created a mission statement, presented a number of Friday Energy Newsletter items, made presentations to the Town Council, discussed low hanging fruit to save energy in town,)

Robin suggested contacting the NH Department of Energy and Planning to find out what other town energy committees have done so far.

4. Guest comments: Kevin Carpenter suggested talking to the Kittery committee about their windmill. They are not getting as much energy as guaranteed by the installer.

Stephen Burns handed out an interesting one page comment on using the Durham Mill Pond for hydroelectric generation and includes some history.

5. Discussion of the Three Pillar Document and the Feb. 18 public meeting:

We reviewed the Vision process. Discussed the statement for the Friday Durham Update - a combination of what Nat wrote and Don's version of the Vision statement. We also discussed what the best way to get ideas to the public. One guest commented that the Nation has changed since the election and there may be more willingness to accept our suggestions.

Nat will change the flyer statements to questions by Wednesday so Robin can layout the flyer in time for the deadline.

Bill and Walter have been asked to come to the DEC meeting of Feb. 16 to discuss the Feb. 18 public meeting.

6. We agreed to do an article for the Spring issue of the Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee newsletter. Nat made a suggestion of combining several things that had been written.??
7. Town Council election issue - discussion of robin's email on this. Item put off until a later meeting.
8. Wind turbine project. Item put off until later meeting.
9. Guest comment: We should be using UNH students to help with projects. We replied with times that we have already cooperated with UNH students as on the GHG inventory.
10. New Business: Discussion of the suggestion from Town Administrator Todd Selig that we make clear the terms of service for members of the Durham Energy Committee so they are staggered. Also he suggested that all committees the town reduce the number of people on committees. Put of until a later meeting when we have a quorum.
11. Diana Carroll made two short announcements;
 - * There is a new low energy building mostly up on old Durham road across from the cemetery with 48 units and 96 beds. She suggests that we get a tour of it.
 - * Tom Johnson told her that there is an Eastern States Building Officials Federation at the NEC March 29 to April 1. One track is green buildings.

ACTION ITEMS for next meeting or before:

* Nat will change statements in draft to questions by Wed.; * Then Robin will layout flyer.

12. NEXT MEETING is Monday Feb. 16 at 4:30 at the Town Council Chambers. Public meeting is Feb.18.