

Durham Energy Committee  
Monday, March 16, 2009  
4:30 pm  
Durham Town Council Chambers

Meeting minutes

Present: Kevin Gardner (Chair), Doug Clark, Fil Glanz, Don Brautigam, Mike Hoffman, Todd Selig (Town Administrator)

Minutes Taker: Kevin Gardner

1. Call to Order 4:35.
2. Acceptance of minutes of March 2, 2009 meeting. Minutes accepted without revision.
3. Greenhouse gas emission reduction fund RFP: discuss submission from DEC/town of Durham.

Subsidizing home energy audits. Coop idea – get discount on audit but also on follow through with contractors. Need to talk to insulation suppliers and contractors in order to get agreement for discounted services. Grant to do energy audits and implement some of the ideas from the audit.

Some issues for the town – need to do a qualifications type of RFP for the town based on a competitive bid situation. Reputable company, etc. If residents want to accept the subsidy, then would have to use our selected company or companies.

Copy what federal govt. has done – (e.g. 40K for audit (pay 90% of audit), 60K for improvements, and pay for 30% of improvement costs up to \$600).

Discussion of article in NYT Sunday 3/15/09 about towns and cities providing loans for solar PV to residents who then pay back through their taxes. Loan stays with the house.

Outreach and education programs – should include funds for this in grant application. Communication of master plan to residents, also communicate other things for committee at large. Should do separate grant proposal to deal with communication. Send code enforcement out for training is another idea. Ask Nat to do this grant application for communication.

4. Oyster River dam hydroelectric potential discussion

Expressed opinion to Todd that energy is not a consideration for this decision. Dam does not have much potential for energy generation, and if one did want to do it with a renovated dam, it could be done relatively inexpensively.

## 5. Steps forward for the Master Plan.

Doug – need a grant to have professional help to get this written and completed. Master Plan effort in 2000 had loads of professional help. Todd suggested that when we are ready, we should talk to him and discuss what level of resources we would need for completing the chapter.

Now we need to put meat on 3 pillars, model out scenarios that articulate how we're going to get where we want to go.

Now we need to outline all of our strategies and develop scenarios for each pillar. We began a brainstorming session on transportation and Doug took notes on a big sheet of paper.

### Transportation

Connecting neighborhoods and downtown. Non-vehicular links between neighborhoods and between neighborhoods and downtown.

- CBD dominated by pedestrians not cars
- Connect CBD with neighborhoods, schools by public transport with
  - Walking paths
  - Biking paths
  - Public transit
- Alternative traffic pattern that both increases walkability of CBD and alleviates traffic congestion.
  - Begin in Jenkins court making this pedestrian only
  - Extend to Main st.

For next time: people should bring their ideas on the strategies for the 3 pillars and we will do brainstorming to get the ideas on paper and vet them.

## 8. Adjourn 5:55