

**Durham Energy Committee
Minutes of April 20, 2009**

Present: Nat Balch, Don Brautigam (Chair pro tem) David Cedarholm (Town Engineer), Fil Glanz, Mike Hoffman, Robin Mower (Council Rep.)

Not Present: Kevin Gardner, Vasiliki Partinoudi

Guests: Tom Johnson (Director of Zoning, Building Codes & Health, Town of Durham); Laurel Cox (Energy Committee, Town of Lee); John Haeck (UNH student)

Minutes submitted by Filson Glanz

1. Meeting called to order at about 4:30 PM.

2. Discussion with Tom Johnson:

- a. The DEC planned to talk with Tom and will be talking with a couple developers who do work in the Durham.
- b. Mike Hoffman raised the concern of model codes not keeping pace with environmental trends and new technologies. Cited was the example of grey water systems not being permissible and the need for our regulations - throughout the country/state/county - to change the rigid views against them.
- c. Tom gave us a picture of the many codes and version of these that apply to the Town. These include the set of International Energy Codes for Residential, Industrial, state electrical codes, Green Building Ordinances, etc. It can be very confusing which code is in effect since it takes years to update codes and then get them approved by the State. For example, the International Energy Code 2006 is still in effect since NH has not yet approved the 2009 version; but the 2012 version is being worked on at this time. This is information that the DEC will need to consider when choosing language in the Master Plan for energy-efficiency recommendations.
- d. Tom was asked what he saw as most important with regard to where the DEC might find the best leverage for encouraging Durham to adopt more energy efficient strategies. His reply was that many houses he inspects (for other reasons) have little or no attic insulation, and attic doors tend not to be insulated and are not well sealed. Therefore, a great amount of heat escapes and homeowners pay significantly more for heating than they would if they were to improve their insulation
- e. Questions by the DEC:

How do we make sure that builders know which are the most current codes in effect? We may need to create an education program to address this concern. The DEC could also ask the Planning Board to enforce the current code or even a higher standard.

Question about problems with student housing since that is one of Durham's main industries. One idea is to require that developers adopt energy-efficient and water-conservation measures such as installing low-flow shower heads and occupancy sensors.

In answer to a question, Tom suggested that we go after existing housing stock to make the buildings/houses more efficient as a way of having the greatest impact on energy usage by Durham's housing.

Question about getting attic insulation upgraded on Durham houses and how to get good local companies to do it: Tom suggested extending the request for bids to the whole of New England for installers and for bulk buying of insulation.

Question about how to keep people from working around the low-flow fixtures: Tom suggested that there were manipulation-free fixtures available now and they should be required.

- f. Dave Cedarholm commented that he and others have planned to write a manual for developers on designing and building a green building.

3. Approval of the Minutes of 4-6-2009. A few changes offered and the Minutes were approved.

4. Comments about the Natural Step program – discussed how to respond to presentation from previous meeting by Ellen Karelitz (April 6, 2009). DEC should further research if there are other such programs that promote sustainability.

5. Dave Cedarholm commented on a) the Durham Wastewater Plant and the stimulus package funds that the Town of Durham may receive, b) a presentation he made to the Planning Board on April 15 on the idea of creating Park & Ride lots, such as at intersection of Rt. 4 and Rt. 108; also near Rt. 4 and Main Street either near UNH's West End lot or off Technology Drive. UNH wants one at the Lee traffic circle that Dave believes is already too congested. Dave also mentioned that the new parking lot near the Churchill Rink is available for Durham residents to use for car sharing.

6. Next meeting is Monday May 4 at 4:30 PM.

7. Meeting adjourned at 6:00.