

Durham Energy Committee
Minutes of June 15, 2009

Present: Nat Balch, Don Brautigam, David Cedarholm (Town Engineer), Kevin Gardner (Chair), Filson Glanz, Mike Hoffman, Robin Mower (Council Rep.)

Not Present: Vasiliki Partinoudi

Guests: Tom Johnson (Town Code Enforcement), Laurel Cox (Energy Committee, Town of Lee)

1. The meeting started at 4:37 p.m.
2. Agenda
 - a. Seacoast Area Renewal Energy Initiative [searei.org]
 - b. Durham Home Energy Tour
 - c. Tom Johnson - planning to improve codes
 - d. Town Administrator's orientation meeting for Boards and Committees
 - e. Master Plan - Transportation Pillar drill-down
 - f. Lee Energy Committee meeting with member of the EPA
 - g. Correspondence from resident Shawn O'Connell
3. Tom Johnson gave us a brief explanation of his attempts to bring the International Code Council (ICC) up to standards that reflect today's need for more energy-efficient building practices. Tom has submitted recommendations to the State Building Code Review Board via the State Public Utilities Commission (PUC). He recommends that all current Zone 5 counties be made Zone 6 for the National Code, which would then be incorporated into the International Code. Builders seem to be fighting this change in the NH State Legislature. The DEC will submit its support for this change to the State Building Code Review Board by sending a letter to the State Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Mike Hoffman will draft the letter. The standards included in a Zone 6 code include R49 insulation, caulking around ceiling light boxes, etc.
4. SEAREI (Seacoast Area Renewable Energy Initiative), which is modeled after the Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative (PAREI), has been formed (searei.org) by co-directors Kevin Beane, Ann Bliss, Michael Bliss, Paul Burke, and Melinda Salazar.
 - a. PAREI works on a neighbor-helping-neighbor barn-raising model for solar thermal installations, but homeowners may prefer to hire PAREI crew for installations
 - b. Nat said NH yield on PV is 40% less than rated in New Mexico.
 - c. SEAREI members Ann and Mike Bliss will be the first to put up solar hot water heating at their Portsmouth home.
5. Home Energy Tour in Durham: Flyer will describe a photovoltaic system on one home, solar thermal on another home, a tight envelope house, etc. Tour is from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM Saturday June 27.
6. Orientation meeting for Town committee chairs and others
 - a. The Council would like to see the goals of the boards and committees in alignment with its

own so as to move the Town forward in similar directions.

- b. Must make decisions at public meetings - it can't be in emails!!
 - c. Agenda must be posted 24 hours ahead of meeting. Minutes due within five days.
 - d. There have been a number of workshops scheduled to explain all this.
 - e. The DEC reviewed the Council goals in light of its work.
7. Brief discussion about the possible benefits of form-based code rather than zoning ordinances in terms of elements that might have an energy efficiency impact.
8. Town web site will be revised this summer, so members should think about what should be on the DEC web pages.
9. On June 2 the Lee Energy Committee hosted a talk by UNH professor Dr. Ihab Farag who explained how towns could join the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Community Energy Challenge. Dave Cedarholm noted that some time ago, Durham completed one of the first steps which entailed an energy audit on a number of its municipal buildings for which it received an Energy Star rating. However, Durham did not complete the application process.
10. As a follow-on to Dave Cedarholm's work to obtain Durham's designation as a *Bicycle Friendly Community*, resident Shawn O'Connell contacted the DEC to discuss his interest in finding funding for reviving a bike trail to Portsmouth.