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DURHAM ENERGY COMMITTEE
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2010
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, DURHAM TOWN HALL
7:30 P.M.

MINUTES

I. Call to Order 7:30PM

Present: Fil Glanz, Don Brautigam, Kevin Gardner (chair), Mike Hoffman, Robin Mower (Town Council Rep)

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Absent: Dave Cedarholm (DPW Rep)

Guest: Amanda Merrill (NH Senator), Peter Ejarque

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Minutes: Don Brautigam

II. Discussion with Senator Merrill

Sen. Merrill began by reviewing several bills that have either been, or are soon to be, submitted to the NH House or Senate for consideration.

- HB1554 (2010): Is currently in committee and may be considered for an interim study in which case it would be held over for another year. Will probably know by March how it will proceed. The Jordan Institute has been involved in conducting research and supports the bill. If the bill comes out of committee for a vote, the DEC could possibly help by getting in touch with Rep. Naida Kaen.
- HB1471(2010) – “Requiring the board of home inspectors to adopt rules developing documents relative to home energy audits and energy efficiency for home buyers and relative to continuing education for home inspectors.” The bill as not well received because language about required audits was considered too strong.
- HB 1688 (2010): “This bill requires the state building code review board to adopt certain code requirements concerning biomass burning boilers which are inspected and subject to enforcement by the department of labor.” A bill to facilitate import of high efficiency wood pellet boilers (built to European code, which is different from US code) – didn’t pass – still in study.
- SB327: Utilities would be required to specify information on energy source mix, emission information, etc. Assuming this bill passes, it will be kind of a

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consumer-oriented companion piece with (a “Green Option” bill that was passed last year)

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- SB 393: Bill to be submitted; it will establish a revolving fund using RGGI fund – perception is that there is not much support.
- SB 323: Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy (EESE). This is a major piece of legislation that specifies that NH first must exhaust all energy efficiency measures before building more energy plants. The following summary is from the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) website: “The Energy Efficiency & Sustainable Energy Board was established pursuant to [RSA 125-O:5-a](#), effective October 1, 2008. It was created by the NH legislature “to promote and coordinate energy efficiency, demand response, and sustainable energy programs in the state.” The EESE Board is administratively attached to the PUC”

Following a review of these legislative initiatives, the discussion turned to the topic of local energy committees. In particular, Sen. Merrill encouraged the DEC to collaborate with other, regional energy committees and to contact Rep. David Borden of New Castle.

It was noted that we had already communicated with the Lee committee regarding recent support of various pieces of NH legislation. Lee committee is particularly interested in the NH Community Loan Fund (? what was this about ?<<I DO NOT REMEMBER)

Peter Ejarque said that he is currently on the Rochester Energy Committee and that the Jordan Institute had performed a city-wide energy audit for Rochester; the audit report was then incorporated into the city’s Master Plan (which is continuously being updated).

Senator Merrill suggested that we refer to the NH Climate Report in the Durham Master Plan energy chapter.

III. **Agenda approved.**

IV. **Minutes Approved from:**

- A. Dec 7 minutes passed
- B. Jan 11 minutes passed

V. **Other Business**

A. **membership**

Several members recalled that Durham resident Anna Porter has expressed interest in participating as a non-member, e.g., helping on project Discussion was held on how to proceed with Peter Ejarque’s DEC application.

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- B. **regional collaboration:** It was suggested that it would be worthwhile to periodically hold a joint committee meeting with Lee, Madbury (does Madbury have an energy committee?), Durham.

- C. **new meeting time:** It was agreed that the DEC would meet on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 PM

- D. **hands-on projects:** Peter and Mike expressed interest in getting involved in “hands-on” type projects, such as performing energy audits of municipal buildings. Mike will talk to Dave Cedarholm about getting copies of the energy audits that were done earlier by a UNH class (Professor Farag).

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- E. **Planning Board quarterly meetings:** Kevin will ask Jim Campbell to put the DEC on the next (subsequent to February) quarterly planning meeting agenda to present a draft of the Master Plan Energy Chapter

VI. **Green Launching Pad**

Kevin gave a summary of the newly announced UNH Green Launching Pad initiative, which is designed to facilitate the startup of green companies to mitigate climate change and promote economic growth. ARFPs will be released, and UNH will select 3 proposals (each to be awarded up to \$90k) for innovative projects to bring “green technology” to market. UNH will facilitate the formation of teams (to include, for example, expertise in venture capital, marketing, technical support, etc.) to help bring project to fruition.

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

The committee began discussion of the current draft of the Energy Chapter. Don will develop a brief paragraph summarizing the salient points of the NH Climate Action Plan and Kevin will work on summarizing the key points from the Greenhouse Gas Emission study written for the DEC. Robin will take these and work them into a revised draft of the Energy Chapter that will then be circulated via email amongst the DEC for further consideration at the next meeting.

VIII. **Next meeting of the Committee:** Monday, March 8, 7:30 PM, Town Council Chamber

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IX. **Adjournment** – 9:40 PM