



**DURHAM ENERGY COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2010  
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, DURHAM TOWN HALL  
7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order 7:00PM**

**Present:** Fil Glanz, Don Brautigam, Kevin Gardner (Chair), Mike Hoffman, Robin Mower (Town Council Rep), Peter Ejarque

**Absent:** Dave Cedarholm (DPW Rep)

**Guests:** Bob Potter, employee of Energy Services Group and Durham resident

**Minutes:** Don Brautigam

**II. Discussion with Bob Potter**

Durham Energy Committee (DEC) member Mike Hoffman arranged for Bob Potter from Energy Services Group (ESG), one of the retail energy industry's provider of wholesale energy services, to come and teach us more about Durham's options for alternative approaches to procuring its electric power. This was largely in response to the DEC's previous discussion (3/8/10) with Robert Coffey from Green Power Management. The following are some of the issues raised in the discussion.

- A. We should speak to Durham's PSNH account manager regarding potential benefits of KVAR (product offered by Green Power Management).
- B. PSNH deals with wholesale suppliers and will bid price to hold for next 6 months, providing "standard offer price" to its customers
- C. Halifax American Energy Company (HAEC) buys realtime or day ahead power – they predict power load, buy wholesale and turn over rights to retail customer – allowing their customers to "ride the market" (something that Green Power Management is essentially offering)
- D. These two practices: "standard offer price" vs "riding the market" represent two extremes of the market; other options "in the middle" have much less risk but would still save some money
- E. If town were to buy into "Green Power Management" and prices were to continue to go down, PSNH prices would always be higher; but, if prices go up, PSNH prices would be lower.

- F. It is likely that there are limitations on the frequency that you can switch in and out of “wholesale” electric power purchases.
- G. Public Utility Commission provides a website with list of suppliers (Bob will call Mike with list). If we provide any of the suppliers with the following, they will evaluate what kind of deal they could provide Durham.
  - i. list of municipal electric meters
  - ii. type of buildings
  - iii. historical load profile (wastewater treatment plant, municipal buildings, schools)
- H. Apparently a very large reserve of natural gas has been discovered recently – purportedly enough for 100 yrs based on current consumption trend; this will obviously have impact on current power prices

### III. **Discussion following Bob’s presentation**

- A. Robin – will write Todd requesting list of meters; letter of authorization to evaluate power consumption
- B. Fil – will contact Dave Cedarholm regarding whether the Waste Water Treatment Plant has capacity bank – and how it deals with its power factor. Will also inquire about any energy efficiency projects currently being pursued.

### IV. **Topics other than Master Plan**

- 1. Appointment of a representative to the Economic Development Committee, which regularly meets the 4th Monday of the month at 7pm
  - a. It’s recommended that someone from the DEC attend.
- 2. NH State legislation SB334: An act establishing a committee to study methods of encouraging the installation and use of small scale renewable energy resources by homeowners and businesses and relative to investments in photovoltaic renewable energy projects. Public hearing on April 15.
  - a. It’s recommended that we send email to Rep. Naida Kaen to voice our opposition
- 3. Federal legislation S.2993: A bill to increase the quantity of solar photovoltaic electricity by providing rebates for the purchase and installation of an additional 10,000,000 solar roofs and additional solar water heating systems with a cumulative capacity of 10,000,000 gallons by 2019.
  - a. work through Clean Air Cool Planet to provide response – supported by DEC
- 4. Building permit fee incentives for green building practices
  - a. Robin – to check about building permit fee revenue
  - b. present example – in Washington DC to Tom Johnson
- 5. Discussion about municipal fleet, Zip Cars, ...
- 6. Discussion on “sharrow” bike paths; bike racks for municipal buildings

### V. **Energy Chapter of the Master Plan**

Further discussion on Master Plan Energy Chapter was postponed to next month once more people have an opportunity to study current draft. It is anticipated that we will have a draft to present to the Planning Board during their next upcoming quarterly meeting, though it is not clear what that date is.

- VI. **Next meeting of the Committee:** Monday, May 10, 7:30 PM, Town Council Chamber
- VII. **Adjournment** – 9:25 PM