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DURHAM ENERGY COMMITTEE
JUNE 15, 2011
DURHAM TOWN HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:00PM
—MINUTES—

Members present: Charles Forcey, acting Chair; Peter Wolfe, Planning Board Representative; Peter Ejarque; Brian Goetz; Robin Mower

Members absent: Chris Skoglund, Kevin Gardner, David Cedarholm

- I. **Meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M.**
- II. **The agenda was approved, with the exception that “Committee membership” was moved to later in the meeting.**
- III. **Approval of Minutes—approved unanimously as amended**
 - A. February 17, 2011
 - B. March 14, 2011
 - C. March 22, 2011
 - D. April 12, 2011
- IV. **Bicycle route improvements**
 - A. Update on meetings with Traffic & Safety Committee—Robin reported that the Traffic & Safety Committee meeting to be held on June 16 will review the proposal in light of the traffic model run results that will be presented; with the one-way or two-way options up in the air, it is understood that the options previously considered might now be limited.
 - B. Coe Drive bike lane potential—Robin reported on the Traffic & Safety Committee meeting discussion about the possibility of requesting from the ORCSD that the designated parking spaces along Coe Drive be replaced with a bike lane. Goetz expressed concern about the lack of a bike network, rather just the disconnected pieces: it doesn’t send the right message. Charles expressed concern about the politics: “we’ve lost 15 spaces and I’ve never seen a bike there.” Some chicken-egg aspects were acknowledged. Peter Wolfe requested statistics/evidence supporting the concept that safer routes increase use. DEC concurred that removing parking spaces for a stranded stretch of bike lane is not a good idea. Interconnected network recommendation is our key goal. We will revisit when missing Committee members can participate in the discussion.
- V. **Brief discussions**
 - A. *Review of revised energy checklist*—Peter Wolfe suggested that the Site Plan Review Regulations should be amended to incorporate the concepts included on the checklist, with points assigned to each item. Applicants would be required to meet point threshold to obtain a permit. This will be a long discussion; goal is to take a draft to the PB. Point system could be parallel to the LEED approach without being as onerous. Discussion included a reminder that the PB joint meeting with the DEC suggested that a checklist

be created also for homeowners. Charles suggested that this document could possibly help an applicant with leeway on other aspects of an application. A point system would make this nonrandom.

Robin will send to the Town Planner, Planning Board Rep to the Energy CoMmittee, and Energy Committee Chair and request that the PB review at earliest convenience.

- B. *Status of discussions with Revolution Energy*—Charles reviewed; RE is proposing their standard package to the Town. They own renewable energy systems on behalf of Durham, and Durham contracts with them to pay less than the current energy rate for a period of time (capping the rate over the loan period). Durham says we'll save \$10K on our energy and it will be flat over that period. RE invests in and manages the equipment. The Town will own the equipment at the end of the period.

Peter asks whether the proposal is best for the Town, not just best for RE, since the rebates are available for solar, not geothermal. Other viable options? Requests that the proposal be made available to the DEC.

- C. *Sewer and water bill message review*—the DEC will consider revisions to the next bill with greater lead time.
- D. *PSNH homeowner lighting meter*—Peter Ejarque talked with a representative from PSNH regarding a meter that provides usage reading and other equipment that might be of interest for our Durham Day booth. The DEC is very interested in these options. He will follow up with the representative.
- E. *Sustainability website*—Charles has a domain “sustainable-durham.info” that is available for the DEC for a blog. The next step is to commission 1 to 3 articles, e.g., a case study of a homeowner’s solar panels. Another example: is bicycling practical in Durham? Studies (from Kevin) of a city with similar weather show possibility. Link from the DEC website and vice versa. Typical types of blog entries include: FAQ, case studies or profiles; events bulletin; whimsical did you know; survey stub
- F. *Solar registration vs. permitting*—discussion of the news that Vermont has fast-tracked solar proposals, making it cheaper (but Durham’s permitting process is not onerous)

VI. **Committee membership—moved from start of meeting**—discussed roles that members would be willing to take on. To be continued as needed with absent members at next meeting.

VII. **Master Plan chapter: Schedule work date, task lists**—Charles, Peter Wolfe, and Peter Ejarque will meet during the next month

VIII. **Energy inventory**

- A. Updating data—Charles will update; we want a workflow that a Town staff member can do effortlessly, or a DEC member... He will also investigate linking the data to the Strafford Regional Planning state plan (ETAP). We need to ask Todd Selig to speak with the Business Office about downloading the PSNH data. Charles and Brian will work on this in the next month.
- B. Plans for reports—not discussed due to time constraints.

IX. **Other business**

X. **Next meeting dates:** July 12, 2011 (2nd Tuesday)

XI. **Adjournment at 9:05pm**

Robin Mower, minutes taker