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DURHAM ENERGY COMMITTEE
AUGUST 8, 2011
DURHAM TOWN HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:00PM
— MINUTES —

I. Call to Order and acknowledge absent members—7:10pm

Absent members: Peter Wolfe,
Public present: Steve Weglarz, Cedar Point Road

II. Approval of Agenda—unanimous

III. Approval of Minutes

A. July 12, 2011—unanimous; Robin will send for posting

IV. Reports on current projects

- A. Bike route Madbury Road, traffic changes | other potential road striping | survey?
New parking, signage, stop installations and traffic control striping—project costs
DPW employees @ \$20.21/hour X 16 hours = \$323.36
Pavement markings = \$350.00
Materials (signs, posts, hardware, LED flashing light) = \$324.86
Total = \$998.22

Discussion about pros and cons: fundamental principal: If there is an open lane in front of a stop sign, people will ignore it; need an on-ramp, which sends a stronger signal. The median has to change to create a hard right. People stop ahead of the stop sign. Goal is to slow down traffic.

Agree that this is a good first step, but it is still not a connected network.

Survey for response to this experiment? Use it as an education tool: structure the question so it's full of content (i.e., you have to learn something before you respond). Charles and Kevin will run idea by Todd Selig. Link from Friday Updates to the Sustainable Durham website (DEC's using Survey Monkey) Measures taken to calm traffic, make it more pedestrian friendly and walkable.

Brian Goetz talks about NHPR's "The Exchange" program last week on bicycling in NH. It received complaints that bikes do not pay taxes. Brian noted that in fact, since property taxes pay for towns' roads, if a bicyclist pays property taxes, that statement is inaccurate.

Bike corrals and Traffic & Safety Committee: postpone discussion until we develop the capacity (currently there is plenty of room for parking bikes, and we could stand to lose politically, since there is already flak about stop signs, et al).. However, recognition that zoning changes should include bike corrals at apartment buildings

- B. Revolution Energy: municipal project(s), ORCSD communication/coordination

Meeting with Revolution Energy and Town Administration tomorrow; letter of intent has been signed, details of contract will be discussed, financial viability of the company and efficacy of solar systems

Peter Ejarque opened a discussion about possibility of woodburning/biomass for transfer station using woodchips, of which we have a large supply, rather than solar, if it's only a question of providing heat; currently costs about \$6K to heat the building;

Chris Skoglund will check out what DOT does with its maintenance sheds. However, there is a different rebate environment for heating fuel (biomass on different schedule).

- C. Master Plan—Strafford Rivers Planning Commission (SRPC) will give us sample chapters from other towns; legal, zoning, planning hooks that we want to include so that our implementation ideas have support. Consultant will work from that. The informal subcommittee will meet before meeting with Michelle Auen.

V. **Brief discussions**

- A. No-idling signs for Middle School—Chris suggested that this would provide an educational opportunity, perhaps including a contest that would engage school children who will in turn encourage parents to change behaviors
- B. Renewable funding information for the community—Skoglund
He's preparing tables regarding PSNH programs such as weatherization; eligibility (what sort of projects, amounts of \$, technology); others could review those for general user accessibility. Charles suggests personalizing/localizing the outreach with examples (fictitious characters, qualifying scenario); link to the website; simple start, the outreach would integrate with MyEnergyPlan (or other resources)
- C. PSNH community outreach—Ejarque
Peter dropped light meter board (comparing light bulbs) at library along with printed materials. Durham Day: booth with solar hot water heater, PSNH light display, possibly the pedal-powered light bulbs, crazy-looking bikes: how to interest people in biking.
- D. Website: article ideas and schedule for publication and launch—Forcey POSTPONED
- E. Solar installation inventory—Forcey—This idea has morphed into digital Green Homes Tourist (virtual visiting houses: <http://myenergyplan.net/ght/>) , parallel to the Green Building Open House program [link to NHSEA site]

VI. **Open discussion / Other business**

Steve Weglarz is friends with Pete Adams, founder of PAREI; apparently PAREI is happy to help if needed

Energy inventory: Charles is collecting fuel delivery dates for data, will share with SRPC; perhaps create a survey for our Sustainable Durham website asking about homeowner experiences

Peter says that he will be getting a 4x8-foot sign at the Durham Transfer Station to state how much money Durham is saving by going through recycling (Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee). Could DEC do something like that stating how much Durham has saved through energy initiatives? (See <<http://www.nhthebeautiful.org/signs.php>> for signs.)

VII. **Next meeting dates:** September 13, 2011 [in the Durham Police Department's Community Room]

VIII. **Adjournment**

Minutes taker: Robin Mower