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**DURHAM ENERGY COMMITTEE**  
**OCTOBER 11, 2011**  
**DURHAM POLICE STATION, 86 DOVER ROAD**  
**— MINUTES —**

- I. **Call to Order and acknowledge absent members (absent: Peter Wolfe; member of the public present: David Sietz)**
- II. **Agenda unanimously approved**
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
  - A. August 8, 2011—approved as amended
  - B. September 13, 2011—approved as amended
- IV. **Master Plan Update and Survey Results**

Subgroup met with Michelle Auen of Strafford Regional Planning last week. She has 160 hours to help us on the Master Plan (MP). Beth Della Valle will also be working with the DEC. Ms. Auen will take the current draft and clear up the comments and footnotes and will bring ideas from other town's master plans. Ms. Della Valle will be the editor. Basic feedback is that the three pillars make sense (clearly the three things you want to talk about) and that they like the structure of the MP chapter (issues, goals, recommendations, implementation) but suggest a summary of what's been done to prepare this new chapter: 1) public meetings, 2) the formation of the DEC and what has been accomplished.

Other popup ideas: focus on metrics. We already have municipal energy inventories; one big Durham study. Going forward, perhaps surveys; PSNH data drops; taking regular samples on municipal use. MP can include goals related to municipal energy use, but the MP is bigger than that: we hope the Town will reduce its carbon emissions but also hope the same for non-municipal Durham (residential, commercial).

Talk about energy audits for homeowners: how to incentivize? For example, offer free audits to first 50 people. Smart money is getting rebates, weather efficiency: emphasize these rather than BIG / climate change. The plan won't work well if there aren't ways to measure how we've done.

Goal: within 10 years, Energy Committee morphs into a Commission. (Better track record...)

Action item request from Ms. Auen: If there's something missing, please send idea along.

Addition: Public outreach as an implementation strategy (e.g., weatherization, lighting)

Timeframe: Check in with Town Planner Jim Campbell (if we get 160 hours from SRPC, can we use the full 160 hours within the timeframe? Perhaps Ms. Della Valle can get from

our draft enough to inform the other chapters and then we can continue to revise using the remaining SRPC hours...)

## **V. Checklist for Planning Board**

Goal is for the checklist to become a routine part of discussions, eventually to become part of Site Plan Review Regulations, perhaps via incentives to meet a threshold mandatory level via a point system. Extensive discussion followed.

Mr. Sietz pointed out that tracking completed checklists is important.

Mr. Skoglund suggested that the checklist should be phased in on a continuum, beginning with an educational emphasis: the first goal is to get people to read it. The ultimate goal may be compliance, but at the beginning, simply completing the survey is an educational tool. Agrees that it is important to track how many complete the checklist. DEC to ask the PB to include in the Site Review packet. How to make it mandatory? What are the most important elements of the checklist?

Members acknowledge the need to discuss how this checklist could be adapted for homeowners/developers for projects that do not require Site Plan Review. Regarding this goal, who has control of the Building Permits? Could Tom Johnson simply hand out a non-Site Plan Review version? Needs to be investigated.

Discussed streamlining the checklist to raise compliance and understanding. Also touched on topic again of creating a weighting system to emphasize which are more important.

Ms. Mower will make agreed-upon changes that will raise visibility of specific elements and then forward it to the Planning Board.

## **VI. Upcoming annual report of the DEC to the Town Council**

The Committee provided suggestions for a list of topics to be covered when Mr. Gardner reports to the Council:

- Constellation NewEnergy electricity supplier
- PACE program and the enabling legislation
- energy inventory | STOCC and Peregrine
- Revolution Energy renewable energy initiative
- Durham Day participation
- PSNH display
- Madbury Road traffic pattern changes
- communication with State about regional transportation, bicycle and pedestrian issues
- discussion with new library representatives about construction plans, e.g., energy efficiencies, bike storage, Revolution Energy opportunities

## **VII. Reports on current projects**

### **A. Madbury Road traffic changes**

- Discussion of potential two-way traffic change with a roundabout
- Recapped Mr. Sahagian's email on this topic expressing concern that the DEC advocated for changes that he believes are not improvements and may actually increase energy usage

- B. Revolution Energy municipal project
  - Noted recent meeting with Town Administrator and forward movement on the proposal, pending additional information to be gathered by Revolution Energy and evaluation by members of the DEC

VIII. **Brief discussions**

- A. Durham Day review—Peter Ejarque displayed a homemade solar hot water heater to curious attendees
- B. No-idling signs for Middle School—still in the works (signs dropped off at SAU office, but installation and photos have yet to be sent to NHDES)
- C. Homeowner resource guide—To be discussed in greater detail at future meetings. Mr. Skoglund mentioned about [www.myenergyplan.net](http://www.myenergyplan.net) and its benefit to homeowners.

IX. **Open discussion / Other business**

- A. Thompson Lane/Faculty Road: bump-out instead of speed table? Ms. Mower will take to Traffic Safety Committee.
- B. Constellation NewEnergy—contract expires in November. Town Administrator has spoken with representative Peter Ingraham regarding our proposal with Revolution Energy, which, although might result in a reduction of demand from Constellation (perhaps 20%) should not be a problem. There would not be a penalty but we might be charged a different rate. Mr. Selig will renew for this year and revisit.
- C. Wagon Track bike route—Mr. Sahagian expressed interest. Ms. Mower noted again that perhaps a bicycle advocacy group could revive the project but that it should not be the DEC. She noted that she has been in contact with DPW Director Mike Lynch and others about the history of the project and will track down documents. Mr. Goetz volunteered to take up the Wagon Track issue coordination, if needed.

X. **Next meeting date:** November 8, 2011, Durham Police Station

XI. **Adjournment**

*Minutes taker: Robin Mower*