



TOWN OF DURHAM
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NOTICE: **ALTHOUGH MEMBERS OF THE DURHAM ENERGY COMMITTEE WILL BE MEETING IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO PARTICIPATE VIA ZOOM OR IN PERSON.**

DURHAM ENERGY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, January 4, 2022
7:00 – 8:30 PM
— Discussion Notes—

1. Call meeting to order
Present:
(In Person) Nat Balch, Steve Holmgren, Ti Crossman, Jim Lawson
Virtual: Suzy Loder, Jack Lannaman
Absent: Bianca Leonard, Ellie Lonske
Chairing: Nat Balch
<Because a quorum was not established, this was not opened as a meeting. The group was able to discuss issues, but not vote on them.>
2. Minutes: Minutes were not discussed or voted to accept/not accept.
3. Report on Progress since prior meeting
 - a. Followup on Agriculture Commission Presentation- Suzy provided the following: Dave Langley stressed resilience of our food sources as opposed to sustainability. Local agriculture will use significantly less carbon. A huge amount of food is wasted every year. Large scale agriculture is very dependent on carbon-based fuels and chemicals. Guides are available for agricultural and energy interests to work together regarding land use. Jim agreed with Suzy on the importance of communication between all parties. He reiterated the value in supporting local agriculture but did express concern that discussions presented by Ag Commission members were based on opinions, not facts. He recommended that we not rush in making decisions until rigorous study of issues is conducted. Jack suggested that working toward change in a positive point of view is very important. Ti recommended reading a book entitled “Electrify- An Optimist’s Guide to Combating the Carbon Crisis”. This is an optimistic, yet realistic view toward working together to support all interests. Suzy stressed the importance of everyone following the rules to best represent everyone’s interests.
 - b. **EV Charging Stations-** Jack reported on a rise in EV charging station usage in December, generating \$381 in revenue to the town. The warranty arrangement with Chargepoint includes annual maintenance service. A 4,500 gram reduction in GHG was achieved. A study regarding future EV and charging station use in Durham will kick off in January, with a small working group to focus in on the study. He mentioned that UNH is actively looking into this issue as well. Vehicle use in general at UNH has changed substantially due to the pandemic.
 - c. CPC-NH Update- Nat gave an update on CPC-NH. A webinar on CPC-NH was provided on January 10 to expose people to CPC-NH. Steve mentioned the importance of increasing public awareness CPA by videos and by mailings to a high level. Jim mentioned that the majority of townspeople use Eversource, so CPA will cause significant changes to our electricity use. If the EAP is at a satisfactory level, it will be appropriate to increase the effort on public awareness.

Jim mentioned that a significant amount of work will be in preparing the document for the Town council, and answering frequently asked questions (FAQ). This is all part of performing due diligence on the process. Nat will ask if members of CPC-NH would be available for review of the EAP.

- d. **Draft Electric Aggregation Plan-** Steve gave an update on the EAP; the working group has developed a draft EAP, based on the template provided by CPC-NH. 95% of the report has been included in the template, with the working group working on the last 5%. This is at a point where members of the Town Council should review the document, and questions addressed regarding the EAP, and more clarity provided, before final review provided by the entire Town Council. Steve mentioned the presence of some vagueness to the document; some of this is on purpose. Jim mentioned that additional documentation may have to be provided; where will financial reserves be stored, how rates are established, etc. Todd had a few thoughts: Can Durham refer to this as Town of Durham participating with CPC-NH, rather than Durham Community Power? Will there be several tiers/choices available? Nat's understanding is to provide an electric power alternative that is not more expensive than the default (Eversource), and that the electricity would be selected on a sliding scale. Steve stressed the importance of making selections based on feedback from the townspeople. Jack mentioned that this is the time to be bold, to be respectful of homeowners' budgets but emphasize the urgency to go green. Todd-we'll need to pay for the power, pay for reserves and the potential for excess funding for additional incentives, etc. Who decides what the excess will be? This is unclear. Who manages the funds? Who manages the actuarial. If this is the town, that's a concern. Steve- This will be managed by CPC-NH. Todd-more clarification and definition needs to be included. Who provides the notifications?

4. Public Awareness/Community Action Discussions- We briefly discussed the following:

- a. Home Energy Audits
- b. Electric Vehicle/Charging Station Show
- c. Upcoming Newhampshirenetwork.org webinar on CPC-NH on January 10, 5:30-7 PM

5. New Energy Committee business

- a. Discussion regarding DEC chair position opening- Any takers for 2022?

6. Updates from Other Committees

7. Next meeting date(s) February 1, 2022

8. Adjournment