

NOTE: Due to continued concerns about COVID, some members participated via Zoom and there were not enough members meeting in-person to establish a quorum, therefore the DEC met and held discussions only; no actions were taken and the notes below were taken.

## **Durham Energy Committee Meeting Notes 2/1/2022**

**1.** Members present in Council Chambers: Nat Belch, Susanne Loder, Steve Holmgren, Ti Crossman

Members Virtually present: John Lannaman, Jim Lawson, Bianca Leonard, Eleanor Lonske

Council Chambers does not have enough members for an official meeting. This is labeled only as a discussion.

**2.** Discussion notes from January 2022 meeting are on the website.

**3a.** Progress CPCNH on PUC has started the rule making procedure, and should align with template for the aggregation plan. Plan shared with a few in the community for feedback on thoughts before it is finalized.

Focus now on materials to share with the town on the agenda forward including a summary and benefits. Survey also to be shared with town to gather feedback and questions on this agenda. FAQ to be established to streamline the inquiries and clarify some of the changes. CPCNH check in today with shared ideas between local communities. A public article may be ideal to start to introduce the public to this plan as soon as possible and assist with the 2 public hearings required.

Ti wrote an article but needs to summarize for the Friday updates. He will link it to the full article for the full scope on the promise of hydrogen.

**3b.** EV charging stations update – concessions down \$98 to \$62 could be due to the season and holidays. 640kg of greenhouse gas saved. (640kg =1411 pounds or 72 gallons of gasoline)

**3b1.** John, Jim & Ti meetings to prepare presentation for the town on electric vehicle use and its benefits. Potential resources available from the infrastructure bill. 2/11 date from DOT to publish guidelines.

We have urged the code enforcement officer and planning board that there be a guideline for EV charging stations in the NH Energy Checklist.

There will be a significant swing moving forward as from 2020 to 2021 there was a 45% increase of EV sales.

Eli suggested we send a formal memo to the planning committee stating our thoughts on the future planning needs of EV to be included in the NH energy checklist.

Jim mentioned there will be an opportunity to present to the Mill Plaza owners suggesting they move forward for their own benefit business wise.

Jack mentioned this is a great way to look to the future to assist with lowering our carbon footprint and help activity move in the right direction and bring about change for the future.

Todd reminds us Durham already has a stretch code beyond the state minimum. We need to be cautious on how much we stretch these requirements or we could lose the option from the state. Advises if there is an economic demand, the finances will dictate this change.

Jim shared that the numbers speak a total story about how this is so beneficial for many reasons.

**3c.** Solar Ordinance update as there have been changes from original proposal. Jim is working with Michael Barrett and may need a few tweaks but is ready to move forward. Public Hearing to be scheduled before presenting to the planning board so any changes can be incorporated if strong public opinion. Jim to give summary soon before the Town Council presentation. Special thanks to Michael Barrett for all the work on writing this to be beneficial for the town.

**3c1.** Jim mentioned looking into where we get our power from and most EV will be utilizing natural gas and where does nuclear power fit into this equation? As demand increases for electricity, the increase will mostly be supported by green energy. Nat reminded us he was aware that a new plant in NA to build batteries to possibly be more green, unclear if more efficient.

**3d.** CPC-NH is up to 17 municipalities. 3 more considering joining. RFP for electric service providers going out this summer to include contractors that will manage these changes.

**3e.** Conversation on work load of running the DEC – can we add seats to assist with the need to share these responsibilities. Agenda for next week's town council meeting to approve adding 2 seats to the committee.

4. How can we reach the public? Town Website & Friday Updates have been our standard. Jim suggestions: an E-Newsletter with a possible subscription option; becoming a content provider by offering what other towns & communities are doing. Bianca suggestion: face to face – set up a table at every town event and have conversations; act as the resource and give them the opportunity to ‘ask the energy committee’. Jack suggestion: agree with face to face; organize events to showcase and share energy installs such as solar power installed on residential homes. Possible good weather field trips can be arranged. Nat suggestion: video production on these installs and how to measure, do a site survey, putting in a charging station in your garage, etc. Todd: a simple postcard to engage towns people; EV drive event was successful; any way to engage the public would be great. Ti suggestions: Seacoast Coffee & Cars show (possibly promote EV in that show), and a solar build out detail for owners to see the reality of it in their home – send a postcard to the owners of the ideal site locations.

5. New Energy Business (Nat) looking for a new chair for DEC – please start considering yourself to take the position!

***\*Action Item:** make a list of best ideas for reaching out to the public between now and next meeting.*

**Next meeting: Tuesday March 1<sup>st</sup> 2022**