



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, September 13, 2022**  
**7:00 – 8:30 PM**  
**— Meeting Minutes—**

**Attendance:**

Present: Jim Lawson, Mike Klein, Ti Crossman, Matt Davis, Steve Holmgren, Emily Freidrichs, Todd Selig, Nat Balch  
Present virtually: Jack Lannaman  
Absent: Bianca Leonard, Townsend Zwart

**Agenda: Approved**

**Presentation by NH Saves: Mark Toussaint- An Outline of the Presentation is as follows:**

- Four electric utilities and two gas utilities participate in NHSaves.
- NHSaves is funded by a small system benefits charge and RGGI (\$1.2M contribution)
- NHSaves Commercial, industrial and municipal programs:
  - Considers anything that will save electricity or gas cost effectively.
  - Primarily focuses on lighting, HVAC, controls, etc.
- NHSaves Turnkey lighting/refrigeration
  - Available to small commercial customers
  - Free audit
- NHSaves Prescriptive incentives
  - Available to all customers
  - Any contractor can participate
  - Self-installation acceptable
- NHSaves Midstream incentives
  - Lighting, HVAC Food Service
  - All NH distributors participate
  - Incentives applied directly to price at time of sale
- NHSaves provides some financing opportunities
  - Smart Start (municipal)

- On-bill (small commercial)- monthly charge converts to monthly loan payment
  - NEIF (third party-National Electric Incentive Fund) only for electric retrofits
- NHSaves Technical assistance
  - Scoping study
  - Focused investigations
  - Comprehensive audit
- NHSaves Residential programs
  - Income based-qualify thru CAPs (community action plan)
  - Retrofit plan (blower doors, etc), audit
  - Energy Star Homes (New construction)
  - Appliances and products- Many reimbursements at point of sale
- New construction
  - The goal is to build better than code
  - Performance-based
  - Early involvement from utility and partners
- Getting started
  - Visit NHDaves.com
  - Contact utility rep
  - Contact equipment distributor or installer
- Incentives exist to upgrade weatherization to meet or exceed code-provide utility bills, square footage. They connect you with an auditor. A \$100 cost, which is reimbursed at audit.
- NHSaves prioritizes weatherization ahead of equipment purchase in existing homes, in order to right-size the heating system.
- Spend some time to think about ways we can reach out to Durham residents and businesses RE: NHSaves

### **Conversation with UNH Energy Club**

- Sam Mercer, president- Goals: to get more students interested in energy and active in participation.
- Matt- is encouraging students to get involved in energy activities.
- Jim- Durham can be a great laboratory regarding energy/carbon reduction. Many things are going on in Durham right now; Durham is involved in GCOM, as is UNH, greenhouse gas inventory.
- Emily- Maybe organize door-to-door opportunities for businesses about financing opportunities, etc.
- Matt- will communicate between DEC and UNH energy task force, Faculty Senate, UNH Energy Club. UNH recently received \$3.5M to electrify the bus system and infrastructure (high-capacity charging stations). A large thermal energy storage tank to store 1 million gallons of chilled water for Spaulding Life Sciences from the 350-ton absorption chiller, to help in load shedding.

### **Discussion About Tracking Solar Array Height**

- There is a dilemma regarding height for trackers. Maximum system height: 25' (per solar ordinance). Some of the dual-axis tracking-type panels, however, raise up between 30' and 35'.

- Jim suggested a Special Exception to the ordinance to allow dual-axis trackers in certain situations.
- Emily: the Planning Board often has difficulty working through ambiguity.
- Jim: The original ordinance had a 30kW nameplate limit (~1,800 s.f.) for freestanding arrays. Some feedback from vendors- makes installation of freestanding solar more complicated. Suggested to going back to the 30 kW nameplate rating. Less cumbersome. The 30kW limit was originally used by the DEC under Charlie Forcey.

### **Resource Page Update**

- Send writeups to Jim for inclusion in town website.

### **Energy Aggregation Plan**

- Steve: Since last meeting, not a lot of change on the EAP. CPC-NH recently had its first EAP approved by the NH PUC. The template used by Lebanon is suitable for updating Durham's plan. This puts Durham in the first wave for launching. Steve and Jim are working on developing a strategy. Jim would like to target 10/19, and target specific individuals beforehand, to resolve any issues. This is just a framework, not a final document. Rate-setting policy, risk management, etc., are down the road.
- Mike: Durham Community Power might not be accessible to folks who currently are buying from alternative utilities other than Eversource (they would be required to opt-in, if they are on a 24-month or 36-month contract).
- A notice should be included in the next Friday Updates informing residents that Durham Community Power is in the works, for rollout next spring. Going with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party supplier now might lock a resident into a situation where they can't opt into DPA without having to pay a penalty to the utility they sign up with, so it's a good idea to let residents know beforehand.

### **General Reports**

- Community Power Aggregation-see discussion above re: the EAP.
- EV Charging Station Update- Jack described a visit to the DPL. Installing a clock-timer may be difficult given the 240-volt power. Jack is stress-testing a low-voltage timer switch. A sign will be provided saying, "No Parking After Hours". The collaboration with UNH in May and June discussed an appropriate corridor for inclusion. A plan came out from the NH PUC shows no proposed stations south of Rochester. The plan proposal indicates that communities more in need should be given a seat at the table.
- Solar Ordinance- Jim will provide a presentation to the planning board next week.
- Jim participated in the Energy Considerations Checklist for 74 Main St. He will explore contacting a NH-based company named Bensonwood which constructs energy-efficient panel-type buildings to present at an upcoming meeting.
- Emily- discussed concerns discussed recently about groundwater mapping indicating a rise in levels which will result from sea level rise. A particular concern is buried electrical conduit extending from PV arrays to panels located in remote buildings. She also mentioned a concern about foundation degradation due to long-term exposure to water/saline conditions. Todd referred to the Hazard Mitigation

Plan which includes a recommendation for raising foundation levels approximately 1'-0". This is in progress.

**Next meeting October 11, 2022.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.**