



TOWN OF DURHAM  
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**DURHAM ENERGY COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, October 18, 2022**  
**7:00 – 8:30 PM**  
**— Meeting Minutes—**

**Attendance:**

Present: Jim Lawson, Mike Klein, Ti Crossman, Matt Davis, Nat Balch, Townsend Zwart, Bianca Leonard

Present virtually: Jack Lannaman, Steve Holmgren

Absent: Emily Friedrichs

**Call to Order**

**Agenda: Approved**

**Miscellaneous**

- **Training Workshop on Avoiding Bias**-Jim encourages attending these workshops
- **Climate Action Plan**- Approved by Durham Town Council
- Opportunities for Community Action will be becoming increasingly frequent.
- Information provided about the “Button-Up” workshop being held by Portsmouth and Rye of November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Update on the Solar Ordinance** – Latest revisions are as follows:

- There may be future occasions where the energy committee may want to be involved.
- The Planning Board is currently making recommendations to the Town Council.
- Discussion on Zoning Table of Uses
  - Permitted use
  - Conditional use
  - Not permitted use
  - Special exception
- **Major Change**-Large solar System Recommendations
  - Defined in zoning as systems between 100kW and 5MW.
  - Not currently widely installed in NH
  - Utility systems of more that 1 MW or more- must register with ISO-NE
  - Generally, these systems generate 250,000-350,000 watts per acre of land.
- Example installations and concerns were discussed
  - Rural land

- Deforestation examples:
  - Massachusetts
  - Maine
- Durham wants to anticipate this kind of solar system and avoid removing large segments of forests.
  - The Town Council proposed allowing these systems as a Conditional Use in the ORLI and MUDOR commercial zones (such as near the Goss International building).
  - However, the Planning Board wants to avoid Conditional Use, and recommends not allowing this type of large system.
- Freestanding residential system size 30 kW or 1,800 sf.
- Discussions regarding small vs large group net metering
- Ti said that we need to move past group net metering and go to load/storage balancing.
- Bianca noted that we don't currently have sufficient support in the state to do this.
- Townsend- depending on the participation in group net metering, systems could grow past 100 kW quickly.
- Matt- conditional use provides somewhat more flexibility for enterprises to get established.
- Jim said renewable energy is a regional challenge, and that land being less than ideal for it in Durham. He said that the DEC could take a position regarding commercial solar and allowing it by conditional use.
- The committee agreed that Jim will draft a letter requesting that the Town Council allow large solar systems in the MUDOR and ORLI zoning districts, and that the committee will consider it at their next meeting.

### **Thermal Imaging**

- Takeaways:
  - Measuring was easy and fun
  - Not sure how best to quantify and prioritize heat losses
  - Not sure how best to remedy heat losses (care about aesthetics)
  - Jim- we should earmark selected residents for infrared imaging, with follow-up weatherization actions, to best understand how it will work if offered more broadly.

### **New Hampshire Saves-not discussed**

### **General Report**

#### **a. UNH Updates**

- A symposium will be held at UNH regarding renewable energy, including Geothermal and marine, on Friday, October 28th.
- The symposium will be held in the MUB. Registration is \$140 for persons not members of the sponsoring organizations.

#### **b. Community Power and the Electric Aggregation Plan**

Durham's EAP has been accepted by the NH PUC, and a working group will be formed by Todd Selig to review CPC-NH documents on risk mitigation and the use of reserves.

**c. EV Charging Stations**

- 114 sessions in the last 30 days- average time per charge 2 hours.

**Approval of Minutes**

Approval of the minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

**Next meeting: Thursday, November 10, 2022.**

**Adjourn**