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**DURHAM ENERGY COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, January 3, 2023**  
**7:00 – 8:30 PM**  
**—Final Minutes—**

**Attendance:**

Present: Jim Lawson, Jack Lannaman, Bianca Leornard, Steve Holmgren, Nat Balch, Matt Davis; Ti Crossman, Emily Friedrichs, Townsend Zwart, Bianca Leornard

Present virtually: Mike Klein

Absent: None

Others Present: Todd Selig

Members approved the remote participation of member Mike Klein

**Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Discussion**

Jim Lawson started the discussion stating his opinion that the energy efficiency aspects of the Inflation Reduction Act were not business as usual, and that Emily Friedrichs and others in the community were encouraging the energy committee to focus on it. He said there was concern that the state would not fully use the funds allocated to New Hampshire. He thought the IRA could be important for meeting the Town's commitments to GCOM.

Nat Balch talked about the value of the IRA to other communities in Strafford County, and that maybe the County should communicate to the state about fully using the funding. There was discussion about this idea.

Emily Friedrichs said that there are funds allocated to each state, and talked about the concern of whether New Hampshire would fully use those funds. Ze said that if the funds are not used then they go back to the federal government, and that some organizations are encouraging people to contact appropriate people at the state level about the funds. Ze said that the Energy Committee could write a statement about the funding that the Town Council could approve. There was discussion about communicating with state officials about the funding and how to involve other communities. There was also discussion about how to best inform the community about the IRA and access to its energy efficiency benefits.

**Discussion about Goals and Working Groups**

The Committee discussed an outline of 2023 Goals and the best way to structure the committee to achieve the goals. Areas of focus and goals discussed were increasing community engagement, Durham Community Power, Earth Day event planning, Oyster River Solar Array PPA2 and Electric Vehicle Advocacy

## **General Reports**

Emily Friedrichs updated the Committee on the Housing Ordinance and the ongoing Housing Task Force's work. Ze said that the Energy Committee could consider a statement endorsing concentrated development areas because of the energy efficiency. Ze said the Planning Board is going through the zoning ordinance making changes. Jim Lawson talked about initiating zoning changes through the Town Council.

Steve Holmgren updated the committee on Community Power and said that towns are in the phase of reviewing the agreements, and that they will need to get the Town Council's approval. Todd Selig said that CPCNH has come a long way with their contract documents, but the town is still evaluating the potential risks, liabilities and exposures. He said CPCNH's timeline is aggressive, and the town may not be able to be in Wave 1.

Jack Lannaman updated the committee that the EV chargers were offline because of a damaged utility pole caused by the December 22<sup>nd</sup> storm. He and Steve Holmgren updated the committee about controlling the library charger for patrons. There was discussion about the challenges with allowing overnight charging at the Pettee Brook lot.

## **Minutes**

The minutes of November 10, 2022 and December 6, 2022 were unanimously approved.

## **Other Business**

Todd Selig said our current UNH Sustainability Fellow would be working until May, and the town is beginning the process to select the next sustainability fellow. He said the next sustainability fellow would be updating our greenhouse gas inventory with 2021 data and that will be interesting data for the committee.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:51.**