

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 June 6, 2023
7:00 – 8:30 PM**

Attendees:

Wayne Burton
Matt Davis
Steve Holmgren
Jack Lannaman (remote)
Emily Friedrich
Nat Balch
Ty Crossman
Mike Klein
Mike Lehrman
Todd Selig
Matthias Dean-Carpentier

Not in Attendance:

Bianca Leonard

Guest:

Erin Dennehy - UNH Sustainability Fellow (remote)

- I. Approval of Agenda -moved/approved.
- II. Introduction of UNH Sustainability Fellow
 - a. Todd Selig introduced Erin Dennehy who will be the new UNH Sustainability Fellow. She is from the University of Indiana and will be working remotely from Massachusetts. It was explained she will be working on the Green House Gas inventory. Todd will be meeting with her weekly for updates.

- b. There was a question and discussion if Erin would be working on goals for the Climate Action Plan. Todd explained those goals would be updated in 2024.

III. Potential Pursuit of Grants

- a. Emily explained she has been looking at various possible Energy related grants. Many are available resulting from the Federal IRA act. Emily proposed consideration of forming a grant writing sub-committee.
- b. There was discussion of possibly forming a sub-committee to write and pursue grants. It was noted that Right to Know law requirements would apply to any designated sub-committee. It was explained that if just 2 or 3 individuals worked on some ideas and then shared them with the committee that would be acceptable and not be in violation of the Right to Know law. It was agreed by all that having just a couple of people work informally would be appropriate. Matt volunteered to help on this. There was also discussion of the limited resources that Durham has to administer any grants and that any proposals need to be signed off by Todd before advancing any process.
It was noted that Todd will be on sabbatical for July and part of August and to keep that in mind relative to any grant proposal timing.
- c. Emily explained that she has explored a potential grant that would be in partnership with the Town of Raymond. The “Building Up” grant might be used to fund an “Energy Fellow” who could work on projects assisting residents to upgrade their homes for energy efficiency etc. Emily noted that the “Building Up” grant is actually a “prize” award and would have minimal administrative needs.
- d. There was lengthy discussion of the July due date for the “Building Up” grant application and the potential complexity of working with another town on such a shared award. A consensus evolved that for several reasons, it would be more desirable for Durham to pursue such a grant by itself rather than try to partner with another town at this time.

IV. Focal Points for Committee Goals

- a. Related to the discussion of potential uses of the “Building Up” grant, Todd showed some slides that highlight that the Built Environment and Transportation make up about 92% of the energy consumed in Durham. It was noted that much of the focus has been on the Built Environment, as a good deal of the estimated Transportation energy use is likely through traffic on Rt 4 that Durham has little control over.**
- b. It was reported that the idea of bringing in an energy expert as a Durham resource has been discussed in the past. It might be helpful but such a position would not pay for itself and hence funding would be difficult to justify. There was some discussion on what factors might be hindering people from pursuing home energy projects and what could be done to help people move forward with such projects.**
- c. Emily pointed out that there are some sources of funding for residents, one being the Clean Energy Credit Union that offers lower cost loans for energy projects.**

V. Next Meeting Date and Agenda

- a. It was noted the next committee meeting would normally fall on July 4th and alternate dates were discussed. It was agreed to meet on Tuesday, June 20 at the usual time.**
- b. The chairman summarized that the next agenda should include the following items.**
 - i. Discuss the Building Up “Grant/Prize” application.**
 - ii. Look at aligning goals for the Committee with Town Council and other broad goals.**
 - iii. Conduct a de-brief on the Durham Day/ Earth Day event.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:39pm.