

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 MINUTES
Tuesday August 1, 2023
7:00 – 8:30 PM

Attendees:

Matt Davis
Nat Balch
Jack Lannamann
Matthias Dean-Carpentier
Ti Crossman
Emily Friedrichs
Mike Lehrman

Not in Attendance:

Townsend Zwart
Steve Holmgren
Mike Klein
Todd Selig

I. Agenda Discussion

- a. Matt Davis noted we might want an update on the Waste Water Plant energy.
- b. Emily Friedrichs offered to provide an update on energy action plan. A question about updates to the web site was raised, note made that Craig or Erin might handle the actual placement of items on the web site. Suggestion was made that maybe plan a future discussion on updates to the web site. Some items from last year might be with Jim Lawson that were not added. Previously the UNH Energy Fellow had worked on the Energy page of the site.

II. Prior Minutes

It was noted that the last meeting did not have a quorum and therefore there were no formal minutes. Emily distributes a few copies of unofficial notes from the meeting.

III. Grants Update

Emily displayed a spread sheet on potential funding sources and contractors. Emily suggested different members could take the lead on an initiative and keep track of funding opportunities. Nat asked how we would use the spreadsheet; would it just be to track opportunities? He asked if the list would be focused on existing priorities and if a sub-group should just focus on grants?

Emily indicated we can't really pursue any objectives without funding grants.

Matt commented we can also identify possible grants for home and business owners to pursue. Jack pointed out there is an abundance of federal grant money now and we should take advantage of it.

Mike asked if the intent was to first focus our broad goals, such as the built environment, and try to pick what to prioritize for our action plan or find grants and pursue those?

Nat suggested there could be a couple of drivers and residents will prioritize their own needs and we can point to resources to help them, such as energy audits or grants. He also commented that in his experience, typically before getting money, designing a project comes first, then you can determine what you need to fund it.

Emily indicated this was a unique year of funding and we stand to lose opportunities if we are too slow to take advantage but we wouldn't invent new projects just because of grant availability.

Mathias suggested the broad goals would still be the focus and volunteer members can pursue various funding sources.

Ti asked if everyone could have access to the spreadsheet being displayed. He suggested we need to pick some specific actions that move us closer to our broad goals then ask what kind of money is available to help fund it.

There was further discussion noting that not all actions need a funding source and there have been past accomplishments without grants. Home energy audits were noted as something that might be a shared cost between homeowner and grant funding.

Emily will share the spreadsheet document with all.

IV. 121 Technology Drive

Matt Davis reported that as the representative from the Energy Committee he met with the Town Planner and developer of the 121 Technology Drive project. He noted there were some potential opportunities with the project. The developer is well educated on energy issues. Essentially the developer is creating a shell space for tenants to fit out their own space to their specifications.

It was suggested that the tenants' specific needs are probably beyond any scope of the Energy Committee and the checklist. A question was asked if the tenants had seen the energy checklist. It was noted that the energy checklist is really just for consideration and there is nothing enforceable.

Matt noted this project is pretty well down the road in development. One question that came from the discussion was if perhaps the town needs to look at where pinch points may be for future electrification projects given the current electric grid infrastructure of Eversource. The town may want to ask Eversource what specific limitations exist for future electrification initiatives in Durham.

The committee may also want to follow-up on considering updating the Energy checklist.

V. Energy Committee Chairperson

Matt nominated Mathias Dean-Carpenter as chairperson. Emily seconded the nomination

Emily moved to appoint Mathias as chairperson of the Energy Committee. Jack seconded the motion. A vote was taken and all present were in favor of appointing Mathias.

VI. Follow Up on 121 Technology Drive

A suggestion was made that one or two members could informally meet with the Town planner to discuss the Energy Checklist process for projects. After discussion Matt and Mathias agreed to request a meeting with Michael Bernhardt, Town Planner.

A motion to adjourn the committee was made, seconded and approved. Committee adjourned at 8:32 pm.