

TOWN OF DURHAM  
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**DRAFT**

**DURHAM ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Tuesday November 7, 2023**

**7:00 – 8:30 PM**

**Committee Member Attendees:**

Matthias Dean-Carpentier  
Wayne Burton  
Ti Crossman  
Matt Davis  
Emily Friedrichs  
Steve Holmgren  
Mike Klein  
John Lannamann  
Mike Lehrman

**Other Attendees:**

Erin Dennehy (remote)

**I. Agenda Discussion**

Request made and approved to add an update on Community Power to the agenda.

**II. Prior Minutes**

Motion was made seconded and approved to accept Minutes of August, September and October as written.

**III. 2024 Committee Goals**

It was noted that previous discussion had suggested we aim to have just 3-4 main broad goals. There was then discussion about developing specific objectives under each main goal and using a SMART goal format for the objectives so they would be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time specific. It was also suggested that each Objective might have 2-3 members volunteer to shepherd the progress and act as a work group to move the objective forward. It was discussed this should not violate chapter 91A compliance.

A point was made that we should try to align the objectives and goals with the Global Covenant of Mayors goals. Focus would include transportation and the Built Environment.

Emily noted the GCOM goals were very aggressive and we need to fit that with achievable goals for the committee.

Matt asked how Community Power would fit into goals and there was discussion of renewable vs carbon reducing energy suppliers. There was discussion of how Community Power would likely roll out with possible time frame of April to implement and the committee could help support providing information to the public. The default power and renewable energy mix options were also discussed relevant to GCOM goals.

Mike L listed out 5 potential goals. It was also suggested we look to the Durham Climate Action Plan for goals and objectives.

Mike K offered to start a goals list on screen and the following goals were developed:

1 Community Outreach, including Earth Day, short blurbs in the Friday Update email, explore engaging high school or UNH students in an ongoing project and providing information on grants available to help with energy conservation.

2 Supporting Durham Community Power rollout, adoption and selection of renewable power.

3 Supporting Electric Vehicle (EV) education and development of charging infrastructure.

4 Support Decarbonizing the Built Environment

5 Supporting achievement of Durham Climate Action Plan goals.

This would include looking at the PPA and possible future solar arrays.

It was suggested and agreed that a small work group could refine these goals and objectives. Mike K, Mike L and Ti C volunteered to work on this.

#### **IV. Town Council- Annual Energy Committee Update**

Mathias reported that he needs to present an update on the committees work to the Town Council prior to the next Energy Committee meeting. There was discussion by various members about what the report needs to include. Committee accomplishments were discussed and it was agreed that the following members would provide a written summary to Mathias.

Jack L- EV updates and charging station stats

Steve H- Community Power status and efforts

Emily- Summary of the Building UP grant application

Matt- Summary of Water Treatment plant energy evaluation

A report on Earth Day was also needed.

It was suggested we should try to tie up the draft goals before the Town Council meeting. It was agreed that the committee would meet Tuesday Nov. 14 at 8pm for a brief focused meeting and review and approval of

the goals. The work group will meet and work on the goals ahead of the committee meeting.

Erin was asked about providing a regular short update on her work each month and she agreed. She was also asked if she could forward the most recent and current Climate Action Plan to the committee.

#### V. Town Council- NH Saves & Net Metering

It was reported that the Town Council passed a resolution last evening asking Todd to write a letter supporting NH Saves.

It was also noted that the question of Net Metering was raised at the Council meeting with concern being expressed that it might disadvantage non-solar electric power customers. There was discussion among the Energy Comm members regarding the pros and cons of Net Metering. Topic was deferred for further conversation.

#### VI. Round Table/ Other Items

- A. EV Ordinance - It was suggested to table discussion on this and give everyone a chance to read the Lebanon ordinance. It was also suggested to have a sub-committee or work group focus on this and also bring in fire safety as part of the discussion. It was agreed to schedule discussion for the January meeting. Emily, Mathias, Ti C and Jack L agreed to serve as a work group and meet before the January meeting.
- B. Chapter 91A- It was discussed and suggested all members watch the Town Attorney explanation of Chapter 91A that is on DCAT.
- C. Committee Structure and Meetings- Emily expressed that meeting just once per month seems like a challenge to make progress. It was also suggested to consider more use of sub-committee structure to prepare issues between meetings. It was also noted that a couple of meetings were not formal meetings because of lack of a quorum. Emily suggested to consider decreasing the size of the committee and having some members become alternates who could be used to assure a quorum. Emily suggested maybe having just 7 members that would only require 4 for a quorum. No decisions were reached.

A motion to adjourn the committee was made and approved. Committee adjourned at 8:58 pm.