

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.

DRAFT

DURHAM ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

7:00 – 8:30 PM

Attendees:

Todd Selig
Matt Davis
Matthias Dean-Carpentier
Steve Holmgren (remote)
Townsend Zwart
Mike Klein
Ty Crossman
Emily Friedrichs
Mike Lehrman

Not in Attendance:

Bianca Leonard
Wayne Burton
Nat Balch
Jack Lannaman

I. Selection of Chairperson

- a. Todd Selig reported that Wayne Burton would not be able to continue as interim chairperson and Todd would serve as the convenor. Todd asked if anyone was interested in serving as chairperson and reviewed the duties of the chairperson.
 - i. The duties included; developing an agenda, tracking open items, sending agenda for posting, running the meetings and striving to accomplish the committee goals.

II. Prior Minutes

- a. Acceptance of the June 6th Minutes were moved, voted and accepted.

III. Debrief on Earth Day

- a. Comments noted that the event went well as part of Durham Day despite the weather. Todd recited some history of past events. Note was made that the committee has been accumulating props and educational poster boards that are very helpful.
- b. Members reported good discussions on home energy alternatives and interest in alternative power sources as well as good interest in the EVs displayed.
- c. Discussed considering in the future to be present at both Earth Day and Durham Day.

IV. Building UP Funding Source for Energy Projects

- a. Matt Davis and Emily Friedrichs reviewed the status of seeking a “prize” grant from the U.S. Department of Energy Building Technologies Office, the Buildings Upgrade Prize, known as “Building UP”.
- b. Matt summarized the concept of creating an entity under the auspices of the town to be known as “REheat Durham”. The purpose being to build consumer awareness of ground and air source heat pumps and provide residents with information and technical assistance in installing such systems. A spin off of building consumer demand would be to encourage development of capacity to install ground source heat pumps as there are only a couple of vendors in N.H. doing such work now.
- c. It is estimated there are 300 plus Durham homes built since the 1980s that have been constructed to make them good candidates to run efficiently on a heat pump system.
- d. Among other things, REheat Durham would help with:
 - i. Performing “Manual J” heat load analysis that could be provided to prospective vendors.
 - ii. Assist with monitoring the installation process with home owners.
 - iii. Guide home owners and businesses to funding sources to help with installation costs.
 - iv. Install an E-meter that would monitor energy used by the heat pump to track and record efficiency of the system.
- e. Emily shared and reviewed a slide summarizing the potential program. It was noted the program would also include weatherization initiatives. It was also pointed out that a detailed budget is not needed for

submission of a grant application but would be developed as part of the Phase I grant award. Emily also reviewed some of the grant judging criteria.

- f. It was discussed that an option for homeowners receiving assistance might be to contribute a portion of the energy savings to help others gain access to the program making it a more sustainable program.
- g. After discussion, it was the consensus of the committee to move forward with submitting an application. The application would go to Todd, or in his absence, Gail Jablonski, Business Manager for review before any actual submission of an application.

V. Committee Goals for 2023

- a. Todd reviewed goals from the climate action plan and committee members discussed various existing goals and initiatives.
- b. After discussion Todd summarized a list of consensus goals. Those included:
 - i. Pursuing the REheat Durham program and grant prize.
 - ii. Focusing on the Built Environment for reducing carbon load.
 - iii. Looking at long term EV charging needs and structure.
 - iv. Pursuing the Community Power initiative.
 - v. Examining a buy-out of the solar array and looking at the net metering opportunity with solar arrays.
 - vi. Looking at energy educational information on the town web site for enhancement opportunities.

VI. Future Meetings

- a. Todd offered to continue to serve as Convenor of the Energy Committee until the membership selects a new chairperson.
- b. The next meetings will be held July 11 and then August 1, back on the usual first Tuesday of the month schedule.

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm.