

*These minutes were approved at the May 7, 2024 meeting.*

## **DURHAM ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**April 2, 2024**

**7:00 – 8:30 PM**

### **Committee Member Attendees:**

**Matthias Dean-Carpentier --Chairperson**

**Ti Crossman**

**Matt Davis**

**Emily Friedrichs**

**Steve Holmgren**

**Mike Klein**

**John Lannamann**

**Eric Lund**

**Mike Lehrman**

### **Guest and Other Attendees**

**Todd Selig by video**

**Erin Denehy by video**

### **I. Agenda Discussion and Approval**

Motion made, seconded approved to accept agenda as sent.

### **II. Prior Minutes Review/ Approval**

Motion made and seconded to accept Minutes of March 5, 2024. All in favor.

### **III. EV Event at Tideline Public House**

Mike L. reported on his meeting with the Tideline representatives and their willingness to host the event. Scott Letourneau the owner is present this evening to share his thoughts. Mike reported he has met with several car dealers so far including one used EV dealer, Green Wave in N. Hampton. The goal is to have 7-9 vehicles of different makes/models on display some of which would be used vehicles. It is planned to have used/owned vehicles as part of the mix so the owners can speak to their experience owning and driving EVs.

It was noted that weather will be a factor and we may need to consider this a once and done if rained out. A question was raised if a police detail was needed and Mike reported he had copied Todd on the general plan but had not got a comment on that.

Todd joined the meeting at this point by zoom and said he didn't think police would be an issue but we can see how response goes. He noted cross-walk lights had been ordered for the cross-walk in front of town hall which if in place by the event would be helpful.

Scott Letourneau a Durham resident and owner of Tideline Public House joined the meeting at this point. He thought the event was a great idea. He noted that they have access to use the Village Garage parking lot for overflow parking on weekends and we could let people know about parking there, or town hall, through the pre-registration process. It was noted that the plan is to have a link for pre-registration in the town announcement in Friday Updates and Tidelines social media pages. Scott also said he can hold June 9<sup>th</sup> open as rain date for now. Matthias mentioned he knows several EV owners including a Rivian owner. Steve Holmgren mentioned the possibility of also getting a Tesla Cyber Truck. Matthias noted that if the interest is high with EVs maybe it could become more common gathering like a cruise night.

Steve H. will list the event on Drive Electric Week web site. Scott said he thought the key time for promotion is the two weeks before the event.

Mathias asked Todd if we could put up temporary signs before the event. Todd indicated since it was a town event it would probably be OK if it was a small banner or display board.

Mike asked if the consensus was to move forward with the June 2<sup>nd</sup> date. Motion was made seconded and approved to proceed with the event at Tideline on June 2<sup>nd</sup> with June 9<sup>th</sup> as backup date.

#### **IV. Climate and EV Survey Update**

Erin Dennehy joined the meeting by video to explain what was in the test survey she had recently sent to members. She reported that members can actually take the survey as it is not recording any results. The survey presents different questions based upon responses to prior questions. As an example, responding no to current EV ownership leads to a different set of questions than if you indicate that you are an owner. Members can retake the survey multiple times to see the various lines of questions. She then went through several of the questions on the overhead screens. Erin will resend the survey with an updated email list and asked for member feedback. Mike K. commented that he thought rank ordering was a good survey technique. There was discussion about not having too many different formats of questions in the survey to keep it easy to take. One suggestion was when listing multiple items to select from to ask participants to just select their top three choices.

It was noted the question about participants age was also to exclude those under 18 from taking the survey as that is prohibited. A request was made to add "back arrows" so participants can easily go back if they want to change an earlier answer. It was suggested to add a question asking if an EV owners' network would be helpful for potential buyers of EVs to ask questions.

Another question was raised about asking about the draft EV ordinance but consensus seemed to be that would present negative bias issues and time date the survey if we want to repeat the same survey in the future to see how EV perception changes.

Another suggestion was to consider questions about people's experience paying for charging upgrades at home and difficulty charging if they are a renter.

**V. Potential videographer for educational outreach**

Jack L. reported he spoke with a student who has good videography skills and may be doing an internship at UNH. The student might be able to do a couple of short educational videos. There was discussion about possibly doing a video on heat pumps perhaps even in place of a live educational event. Jack will follow up with the student.

**VI. Community Power Update**

Steve H. reported that the first meter read for the automatic conversion customers was March and CPCNH power would be in the April bills for those customers. Steve displayed a graph report he prepared on the overhead screen showing the numbers of customers opting in and up for cleaner power. About 90 customers opted in who would have had private power contracts. About 3,000 customers were involved in the automatic conversion. Approximately 27 customers opted up to Clean 50 that provides 50% renewable or clean energy power.

Steve also commented on CPCNH finances and said that the transition process of several towns had caused some fluctuations in the monthly financial reports of CPCNH. This is due to incomplete information from Eversource on historic power use by customers that limited the ability to forecast the amount of power CPCNH needed to purchase for the new customers. He noted that there are financial reserves to buffer the transition periods and he feels the CEO is comfortable with the situation.

**VII. EV Ordinance Updates**

Mike L. reported that what he had sent out as the marked-up document had captured the comments from the last committee meeting. Also included were some new changes that were being suggested for discussion. The biggest change was inclusion of table 10.1 from the Durham Site Plan ordinance. This table shows the number of parking spaces required for different property uses. He said he added the last column on right where he tried to apply the proposed EV ordinance to the required parking spaces. Doing so raised some questions that some categories of building use may not relate to the need for EV charging stations. One example is doctors professional offices and categories where the town required parking spaces on square footage of offices rather than employee counts and visits of client visits are fairly short. This may result in unnecessary requirements for EV infrastructure and associated costs. It was agreed the table should go at the end of section D.

There was discussion and clarification that the ordinance would only apply to new construction single family and duplex residences or, if an existing residence was otherwise replacing the service entrance electric panel.

It was discussed that after the next version is reviewed by the committee that it should be reviewed by the Fire Chief, particularly section E. It would also go to Audrey Cline at that time.

Mike noted that he also included a draft Purpose section and specifically referred to the recommendations of the state EV Commission encouraging charging infrastructure. The purpose also notes that EV Infrastructure is an evolving technology and Planning and Zoning boards should use discretion applying the rules if technology changes.

There was discussion of the process of submitting the ordinance to the planning board. Eric L. noted we should try to anticipate questions and objections and have answers before submitting anything. He also stated it should go to the Director of Planning after review by the Fire Chief and Code Officer. Eric also noted that he was not convinced parking spaces should be based on square footage and employee counts may be more appropriate. He observed some parking requirements may be based on outdated standards.

Mike reported other additions were definitions of charging levels. It was agreed related definitions should be combined. A suggestion was made to include a note that charging car plug standards vary and should be verified for specific use.

Mike asked if in section C, Applicability, if we need to limit a parking lot with principle use as a charging station, to be in the Court House zone where auto service stations are allowed. We are planning to require charging in many parking lots. Todd suggested checking with Michael Behrendt.

Ti noted much of the original draft came from the town of Lebanon. He will check with Lebanon and ask about their experience applying the ordinance.

#### **VIII. Request for agenda item next meeting**

Mike K. requested that for the next meeting an agenda item be to discuss norms and expectations for meeting times and length of meetings. Eric commented that his experience on some other committees is that they do have a planned end time and the time can be extended, but only with a vote to do so. He thought 9:30 might be reasonable.

**Motion was made seconded and all approved to adjourn at 9:09 pm.**