

TOWN OF DURHAM  
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**DURHAM ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**December 3, 2024**  
**7:00 – 8:30 PM**

**Committee Member Attendees:**

Matthias Dean-Carpentier --Chairperson  
Ti Crossman  
Emily Friedrichs (via Zoom)  
Steve Holmgren  
Mike Klein  
John Lannamann  
Mike Lehrman  
Eric Lund

**Guest and Other Attendees**

**I. Agenda Discussion and Approval**

The proposed agenda was discussed and motion made and approved to accept the agenda. A motion was also made and approved to allow Emily to participate via remote video.

**II. Prior Minutes Review/ Approval**

October minutes were discussed. Question was raised if Sophie had posted the presentation she made at the meeting as no one received it. Suggestion to ask her to post it or email. Minutes were accepted as written.

**III. Friday Updates**

1. Steve H reported he has material for two more postings. There was discussion of upcoming holidays and perhaps two postings will suffice for December. Suggestion that next meeting we could spend time discussing future topics to promote in the Updates.
2. Status of the N.H. DOE rebate administration program was another possible topic. The latest news is the state is working to secure a program facilitator and the earliest the federal grants might be accessible is probably the summer of 2025. It was suggested this could be an update. It was commented that N.H DOE seems behind other states in implementation and perhaps also mention other states implementation

- status. Contacts for NH DOE and the Governor's office might be included if any readers want to reach out and urge more timely implementation.
3. There was lengthy discussion of the status of the Jaffrey solar project being disrupted by Eversource connection pricing. It was discussed if this was news for residents interested in private investment in solar projects but no consensus was reached.
  4. Question was raised if a short reminder about heat pump use in the winter might be an appropriate topic.
  5. A request was made for Emily to resend the document on suggested topics previously shared.

#### IV. CPCNH Updates

Steve H reported that Durham is ahead of the other towns participating in the Seacoast Challenge to gain residents volunteering to opt-up and select a more expensive but cleaner energy source from CPCNH. The opt-up rate is 2.3% and that is more impressive with Durham starting from a higher clean energy base rate structure.

It was reported that CPCNH now has a new program for buying renewable energy RECs from solar power generators. Steve H noted that the rates are a little better than what he had been getting from Eversource for RECs.

Steve reported that Dover now has a Tesla supercharger in operation.

#### V. EV Ordinance Update

Mike L reviewed the revisions included in the most recent revision dated 11/9/2024. He noted blue highlighted areas D.1 and D.6 that he felt needed clarification from the committee. In D.1 he suggested clarifying wording to be inserted in the last sentence after the words .... development, to state "this ordinance anticipates that" the Planning Board "will" pro-rate parking spaces.... The committee consensus was this was helpful wording.

In section D.6 the highlighted section was a list of examples of the types of uses that the section applied to and there was discussion if the examples were sufficient. It was suggested to add a retail example.

In section C.1 there was discussion about clarifying the intent of a principal use from a sole use of retail EV charging. It was agreed that it would be helpful to insert the word "sole" before the word "principal" in the first sentence. This can be highlighted for the Planning Directors comment.

In section C.2.c there was discussion of the wording about electric panels and the sentence was revised to read "An electric service level upgrade to greater than 200 amps."

In section 3 and all other relevant sections it was suggested that the 3<sup>rd</sup> level indent numbers be changed from digits 1,2,3 to lower case roman numbers i, ii, iii to avoid reader confusion with digits in sentences discussing percentages. There was then discussion of the process of sending the proposed ordinance out for review by town departments. Prior recommendations by Todd were

reviewed and it was agreed to send to Police and Fire Chiefs as well as Code Enforcement, Public Works and Planning Directors as well as Todd. Mike L will provide a cover note and request those departments feed back within 30 days. After the departments feedback is received it would be sent to the Planning and Zoning Boards. Todd and the Planning Director can also refer to any other town committees as they think appropriate.

A motion was made seconded and approved to accept the revisions as discussed and to send out the revised ordinance as discussed.

## **VI. Roundtable Discussion**

1. CPCNH electric power town surcharge. Emily reported on the option within CPCNH rules for towns to levy a sur-charge on the power rate to be collected for town use on energy related matters. It was reported that four other towns, including Nashua, are doing this. In discussion with Todd, it is too late to do anything for the winter rates starting February but this could perhaps be discussed in a few months for future consideration. There was discussion of various pros and cons and if this was really another tax. In the meantime, an inquiry can be made to see what other towns are using the money for.
2. Electric Trash Trucks. It was reported that Public Works had reconsidered seeking grants for two electric trucks and wants to pursue just one electric truck and also purchase a new diesel truck. They have concerns about battery life in cold weather and relying on just electric trucks as they age. There was discussion of the cost and operating benefits of the electric trucks vs diesel and lifetime cost. Several members noted a hesitancy to second guess the Public Works decision and respect their judgement but offered the committee as a sounding board for other options. Eric L pointed out that the town would be approving the capital and operating budgets this month so the decision would be made quickly. After discussion it was agreed that Emily would draft a nicely worded letter to the Public Works Director offering the committees consultation.
3. Waste Water Plant Power – It was reported that the electric power cost was going up considerably in 2026. There was discussion if this might suggest looking at other options to pursue a dedicated solar array for the Waste Water Plant. It was noted the town had originally considered a \$950,000 buyout for the Lee solar array which was considered and evaluated as not beneficial. It was discussed that perhaps the money could be re-considered for another solar alternative power source.

Motion to Adjourn was made seconded and approved at 8:48pm