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**DRAFT**

**DURHAM ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**May 7, 2024**

**7:00 – 8:30 PM**

**Committee Member Attendees:**

Matthias Dean-Carpentier --Chairperson  
Matt Davis  
Steve Holmgren  
Mike Klein  
John Lannamann  
Mike Lehrman  
Eric Lund

**Guest and Other Attendees**

Todd Selig  
Erin Denehy (remote)

**I. Prior Minutes Review/ Approval**

Motion was made seconded and approved to accept Minutes of April 2nd meeting.

**II. Election of Officers**

Matthias announced that the committee needs to appoint officers for the year. Eric commented that having a co-chair is optional. Eric then nominated Matthias to serve as chair. The nomination was approved and Matthias will serve as chair.

**III. EV Showcase Event**

Mike L reported that Ford and Toyota indicated interest in participating but like all dealers they are subject to availability of cars in inventory. Green Wave the used EV dealer keeps a regular inventory of used vehicles. Advertising the event was discussed. It was noted we would like to have current models on display. Steve H confirmed that Tideline has room for 7-8 vehicles. Scott from Tideline has told us they can use the Durham Garage for overflow parking and Todd agreed we can use the Town hall lot also. Jack asked about paying for signs. Todd replied if we need to make or buy signs the town can reimburse for the material. June 9<sup>th</sup> is still a possible back-up date.

#### IV. EV Ordinance

There was discussion about the Dover EV ordinance recently obtained from a Dover Planning Dept member. It was noted that Dover's required percentage of parking spaces to be EV equipped or ready is much lower than the Durham proposed percentage. It was also noted that Dover has a different philosophy of not building bigger lots downtown. Discussion continued about what percent of spaces should be required to have EV chargers or be EV ready. Mike K asked if everyone was OK with the general framing of the ordinance as now written. It was suggested that if our required percentages are too high applicants can ask for a variance. Comment was made that variances are not that easy to process. A question was asked if we could get some data on what the cost of meeting the requirements for ready and prepared spaces would be. It was suggested that we should work through the details of how the requirements would be applied to specific circumstances before finalizing the ordinance. In response to Mike K's question the consensus was everyone was OK with the framework of the ordinance.

The remaining revised verbiage was then reviewed item by item. Mike L reported he spoke with Michael B at the Planning Dept. who said we could consider proposing this as amending the site plan ordinance as well as proposing a change to the zoning ordinance if we want to address the issue of where EV charging is allowed as a principal use. Another option is to just not address the principal use issue at all. Todd noted that current zoning created gasoline alley here in downtown. Eric clarified the meaning of principal use vs accessory use and that the ordinance does not prevent accessory use owners, such as a landlord, from charging users for the use of a charger.

There was lengthy discussion regarding allowing any charging station to be used as a principal use. It was then agreed to leave the language as originally drafted. Section D item 7, relative to allowing a reduction in required parking spaces as a bonus for adding extra charging stations, was discussed and agreed to be kept as written.

Section D item 8 stipulating that the Planning Board can revise up or down the number of required EV chargers as part of a conditional use or PUD development was agreed to be left as written.

Section D, the chart from Article 10.1 was discussed. Mike L reported that he spoke with the Director of Planning and asked if they require employee counts for all applications. They do not now ask for this in all applications but suggested it can be requested of applicants if we want to base EV chargers on employee counts rather than square footage or some other measure. Michael B did not seem to have a concern if we want to use employee counts as a measure of the required EV chargers.

Section E item 3 Mike L explained he added some language for the Fire Chief to review.

Section E item 5 regarding lighting was discussed and agreed to omit this item. Regarding section A, Purpose Mike L pointed out a typo in paragraph 3 to be struck.

Returning to the chart in section D from Article 10.1 Eric L suggested we check with the Planning Dept or Board to see if they plan to modify or keep the chart intact as they review the site plan ordinance. It was agreed that the work group should go through the chart in detail and look at each use case and the proper measure of chargers and if the required numbers would make sense. Mike K volunteered to help with Jack and Em.

## **V. Community Power Updates and Legislation**

Steve H reported that he has been re-elected to CPCNH Board and will serve a 3-year term. There are now 58 member communities in various stages of adopting and converting to CPCNH power. Opt-outs are running about 1% and Opt-ins are running 2%.

There was discussion of energy related bills in the legislature noting that HB 1600 is not good. Todd asked that because there are numerous energy related bills that come up, if the committee could track the bills and send him comments for his guidance when asked to support or critique energy related bills.

## **VI. EV Survey Status**

Erin joined the meeting remotely. She reported she just sent an updated version of the survey including some input from her professor. It is saved in a UNH account. There was discussion about how to implement the survey and it was suggested it could be linked from the Friday Update. Erin will be passing the survey to Sophie who will be the new Fellow starting next month. Erin has a draft cover letter prepared for the survey.

## **VII. Other Business**

**PV site at Train Station-** Matthias reported he and Erin have been looking at a possible PV canopy at the train station. Jack noted there is a DES grant he has been working on through UNH for charging stations at community locations and the train station would be a possible candidate and they should coordinate.

**Durham Days-** Reminder that we have discussed staffing a table at this event Saturday June 22<sup>nd</sup> in lieu of Earth Day. This could be an opportunity to promote Opt-Up choices for CPCNH. Volunteers will be needed 12:30 to 3pm. Rain date June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Adjournment-** Motion was made and approved to adjourn at 9pm.