

These minutes were approved at the October 1, 2024 meeting.

DURHAM ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 3, 2024

7:00 – 8:30 PM

Committee Member Attendees:

Matthias Dean-Carpentier --Chairperson

Ti Crossman

Charles Forcey

Emily Friedrichs

Steve Holmgren

Mike Klein

John Lannamann

Mike Lehrman

Eric Lund

Guest and Other Attendees

I. Agenda Discussion and Approval

No items were added to posted agenda. Agenda was approved as provided.

II. Prior Minutes Review/ Approval

Minutes of August were reviewed and all in favor to accept as distributed.

III. Term Expirations

Matthias reviewed the note sent about term limits. In March of the year that member terms expire they will have the option to request renewal by Town Council. The 3-year terms will put the Energy Comm. on same footing as other committees with staggered 3-year terms. It was noted that perhaps the committee should try to more actively recruit new members thinking about skills that would be most helpful, such as communications/ writing.

IV. Friday Updates

It was reported that there was good feedback on the Friday Updates Emily did last month. Charley will do September Updates and send a draft to members ahead of time. People can comment directly to Charley if they want to but not engage in discussion. A possible future topic might be on energy related careers.

V. Landfill Solar Project

Matthias reported on initial findings of potential use of the capped landfill site for solar power located at the Transfer Station. It looks like about 360Kw AC could be generated for about \$1 million. There would be minimal tree

cutting needed. Annual maintenance expense would be around \$3,000. Pay back might be on order of 10 years with \$75,000 savings in year one. Finding a grant could reduce payback time. He indicated we could expect a 35-year life of equipment. Transfer station operations would not be impacted. The site should not be visible from or present a view problem.

This size solar array would bring Durham 40 % of the remaining way to have totally renewable power for town functions.

Todd has not really looked at the information yet.

VI. EV Charging Ordinance

Jack, Mike L and Mike K refreshed the committee on status of the draft ordinance and what the work group was attempting to do in last meeting. It was explained that they wanted to test the application of the draft rules on specific examples and calculate required chargers. That suggested the required percentages might be too high. It was also to look at simplifying the formulas. Jack put up on screen the worksheet presentation from June as a refresher. The initial round up rule for determining numbers of charging station per site was a concern as it could add unnecessary costs to projects.

Matthias and Charlie raised questions about including single family homes at all in the ordinance. It was noted that this had been previously discussed in depth at multiple meetings and the current wording was the result of consensus from those discussions.

There was lengthy discussion of the issues and it was mentioned the intent all along has been to hammer out the draft with committee endorsement before sending to other town departments for review.

In conclusion it was agreed the work group would meet again to consider new concerns and come back to the committee.

VII. Budget Road Maintenance Fund? EV Charging

Emily had suggested looking at possible use of some road maintenance budget money for EV charging stations. The town collects \$5 per vehicle registration as a supplement to the road maintenance fund. It was asked if some of the \$5 fee money from the road budget might be directed to chargers. There was lengthy discussion and it was suggested to refer this to Todd and public Works. The committee voted in the affirmative with 7 members to refer to DPW and Todd with 2 abstentions.

VIII. CPCNH Update and Seacoast Challenge

Steve gave an update on the status of CPCNH and had updated town web site as a guide for people to see which plan they are on.

Steve explained the Seacoast challenge among towns to see which town could have the highest numbers of residents opt-up to a higher renewable energy plan. There was discussion of how the contest was running.

Steve was looking for volunteers to help with ideas on promoting the challenge in Durham, please contact him if interested.

Motion to Adjourn was made and passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.