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DRAFT

DURHAM ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 1, 2024

7:00 – 8:30 PM

Committee Member Attendees:

Matthias Dean-Carpentier --Chairperson
Ti Crossman
Charles Forcey
Emily Friedrichs
Steve Holmgren
John Lannamann
Mike Lehrman
Eric Lund (via video remote)

Guest and Other Attendees

Sophie Goodwin, UNH Sustainability Fellow
Todd Selig, Town Administrator

I. Agenda Discussion and Approval

Request made to delete EV Ordinance from agenda as work group has been unable to meet.

II. Prior Minutes Review/ Approval

No comments regarding September Minutes, accepted as presented.

III. EV Survey Results

Sophie Goodwin, Sustainability Fellow, presented a slide deck showing results of the EV survey taken this summer. There were 47 valid responses. Of those 86% were Durham residents. 39% of respondents owned an EV.

76% of EV owners reported having access to a private charger.

Sophie reviewed responses to a number of questions. Highlights include; Motivation to purchase an EV- environmental considerations 82% and potential savings of operating costs 71%. Concerns about EV ownership include; range anxiety 41%, battery life 35%, high up-front costs 29%.

With regard to public charging availability; 53% thought there were insufficient stations in general, 41% cited slow charging speed and 29% cited unreliable charging equipment.

Non-EV owner's concerns were; range anxiety 56%, high costs 48% and insufficient charging stations 47%.

Regarding support for policies to encourage EV adoption, 55% of respondents strongly support policies to encourage EV ownership and 21% strongly oppose policies to encourage EV ownership.

There was discussion of possible ways to get more responses to the survey. One suggestion was to try single question surveys that would be quick and might encourage more participants.

IV. Climate Action Plan Update

Sophie Goodwin and Todd Selig presented an update to the committee. CAP goals are being updated, most of which have been discussed before. They are also looking at other towns goals for comparison.

Sophie reviewed the Transportation and Built Environment sections of the CAP. Question raised about what percent reduction of carbon emissions might result from the stated goals. She estimated perhaps 20% by 2030 but is still working to better estimate. There was discussion about trying to incorporate more measurable goals in the plan in order to better assess progress. Todd expressed that the plan has really been more aspirational. It was noted the Energy Committee itself can be more specific in setting goals for climate action initiatives.

A suggestion was made to more strongly address hazard mitigation and resilience initiatives in the CAP.

V. Friday Updates Update

Charlie Forcey discussed the submission he has done and it was suggested that all the Energy Committee "submissions" be archived on the committee web page for future reference.

Jack L volunteered to do articles for November Friday Updates. Todd noted that the subscribers list to Friday Updates has grown and is now about 4,500 individuals.

VI. Town's Car Registration Fee Question

A question had been discussed previously about using some of the town's car registration fee revenue for EV chargers. Todd explained the origin of the purpose of the fee. It brings in more than \$30,000 per year and the fund balance is currently about \$90,000. The original idea was to supplement the town's annual road and sidewalk repair budget of about \$500,000. Todd explained the town is still pursuing grant funding for purchasing EV chargers for town use. He also stated that there are other projects that he plans to spend

the fee revenue on including flashing lights for some cross walks. It was expressed we could perhaps focus spending the fees on net zero transportation such as improving sidewalks but he prefers to keep flexibility in how the funds are spent. It was also suggested that perhaps the funds could be designated for transportation initiatives that reduce carbon emissions in general giving even greater flexibility.

Lengthy discussion took place about proposing a resolution to Town Council on the use of the car registration fees.

Emily made a motion to recommend the submission of the amended draft resolution discussed to the Town Council for their consideration.

Motion was seconded, vote was taken with seven in favor and one abstention to submit the draft resolution to Town Council. Eric Lund then agreed to co-sponsor the resolution at Town Council with Emily.

VII. CPCNH Update

Steve H reported CPCNH will begin offering 12-month fixed rate plans and wants to get feedback from towns on interest in this vs the six-month plans. Approximately 335,000 megawatts were purchased through CPCNH last year. About 68% of RECs purchased for green energy were from NH and 30% from Maine.

The CPCNH audit has been completed and nothing remarkable was reported. The Seacoast challenge is proceeding and currently Durham is tied for second place with Exeter at 1.6% opt up rates. Portsmouth leads with a 2% opt up rate. Note made that Durham started with a higher default rate to begin with. A suggestion was made to consider working with the schools to see if students might help get parents engaged in considering an opt up.

VIII. IR Camera Purchase

A question was posed by Emily about having the town purchase an IR camera for residents to borrow from the library to evaluate their homes energy leaks. It was discussed it might be in the \$500 range. Discussion suggested the type with an SD card slot might be best. Also, perhaps provide a list of experts who could help answer questions and or train the library staff to help. Matthias offered to research cameras and make a recommendation. Consensus was this was a good idea.

IX. Possible Energy Committee Table at Halloween Event

A question was raised about possibly having a table at the Halloween Downtown event and maybe promoting CPCNH opt up. Steve and Charley volunteered to attend.

Motion to Adjourn was made, seconded and approved at 8:55pm.