

Energy and Environment Advisory Committee

November 09, 2020 [ZOOM]

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:19pm.

Attendees

Committee members present:

Peter Nelson, Chair

Toni Weinstein, Town Council Representative

Roberta Branca, Secretary

Anders Hohm, member

Ellen Read, member

Committee members absent:

Public:

Cris Blackstone, member

Town Council report: Toni Weinstein

New year's budet. Toni reported that the town council reviewed and made changes to the proposed budget for next year. The council added money for road construction, but otherwise didn't touch the budget submitted to them.

She said that good information will be coming regarding energy savings such as LED lights, HVAC systems, paid for through performance contract programs. The council has seen most savings and rebates but not full picture due to fiscal quarter reporting. Solar panels have not been online long enough yet, but more of those numbers should be seen in the next six month report. Peter wanted to know if we could have access to the energy savings information for planning purposes. Toni said she thinks it would be public information. Peter wanted to know what process is being used to break down the town energy expenses and savings, and how to get the information. Toni suggested emailing Interim Finance Director Bill Tappen and cc to Town Manager Steve Fournier.

For goal setting, Pater wants us to know: how much we consume, and how much we produce and expenses/energy consumption building by building. He said that solarization projects get added to the assessors' records through a state form that residents/building owners fill out.

Approval of minutes

Approved as Amended

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Reports

There were no new reports.

Action Items

1. *Committee Organization* – Our newest member, Anders Hohm. was welcomed.
2. *CEPNH Update* - Explanation of CEPNH, community purchasing blocks, and other options were explained by Peter to bring Anders up to speed
3. *Goals* – Henry Herndon of CEPNH sent around a template, and Peter added in information for Newmarket. Ellen asked if we could discuss advising the town council to pass a resolution to commit to converting to renewable energy. She said that similar commitments have been made by both small and large towns, some with conservative majorities. Such towns include Keene, Hanover, Concord, Cornish – a combination of small and large towns – by 2030. A commitment forces the community to focus on how to get it done. Peter suggested framing it in the plan as “one of the goals is to ... by ... “ Peter said Ellen should lay it out as a goal as her contribution to the EAC, and we’ll iron it out by December.

Ellen would like town council to commit to it, aside from CEPNH. Peter commented would be nice to have data to determine how to achieve that goal. Ellen said without a commitment, there’s less motivation to dig up the data. Peter asked Toni to comment on whether town council would accept a plan of broad goals or specific based on specific numbers. Toni can’t speak for the council but said the resolution means more with a plan behind it. Ellen noted that it wouldn’t carry a punishment if we didn’t meet it but it would be a promise to ourselves.

Peter wants to work on goals together via email. Ellen suggested Google drive. Peter suggested just hammering out goals for now, and including Ellen’s suggestion. Members will review EAP goals section, Roberta will create a Google doc and we’ll work on that over the course of this month to hammer out by December.

4. *Local Energy Solutions Conference* – Peter attended some sessions. A lot of it is just talk. Election could change some of the information discussed, due to changes in legislature.
5. *Solarized Newmarket Campaign* -Toni sent draft to us, based on Canterbury. Can vote on it in December.
6. *EV charging station initiatives* – Peter suggested on way to encourage electric vehicle use would be a marketing campaign to have businesses tell stories about benefit. Anders agreed it would attract customers. We Could solicit public comment on the top ten best places. Top ten. Roberta commented that focus on EV prioritizes individual vehicles, and overlooks broader options such as public transportation, without data to back up assumptions about its impact on customer foot traffic for businesses. Ellen pointed out that a commitment resolution puts us in a better position to take a more holistic approach, rather than piecemeal plan. Peter said it wouldn’t have to be municipal spaces, we could ask downtown businesses if they are willing to host stations in order to support Newmarket. Newmarket could be known for its support of EV. Police cruisers in other communities have reduced maintenance by replacing fleets with EV. Ellen suggested conducting or searching for a research study. Peter said if we have interest in pursuing this as a committee, maybe a survey or use Facebook to take the pulse of the town residents, get a list of places people are recommending. Toni said the town will be forming a parking committee and we could kick this to them. Ellen asked if we could vote to ask the town council to charge the parking committee with investigating it. Toni we

said we could suggest it but that the committee isn't formed yet. Peter proposed investigating how to incorporate into the EAC plan.

Meeting Close

The meeting was closed at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Branca

Secretary