

DRAFT

ADOPTED

City of Keene
New Hampshire

ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 3, 2018

8:00 AM

**2nd Floor Conference
Room, City Hall**

Members Present:

Dr. Ann Shedd, Chair
Peter Hansel, Vice Chair
Terry Clark, City Councilor
Chris Brehme
Jessica Baum
Jake Pipp

Staff Present:

Marri Brunner, Planning
Technician

Members Not Present:

Aperr Naadzenga, Alternate
Larry Dachowski, Alternate

Guests Present:

Nancy Gillard, MPA
Carolyn Jones, MPA

1. Call To Order and Roll Call

Chair Shedd called the meeting to order at 8:05 am and conducted roll call.

2. Approval of September 5, 2018 minutes

Vice Chair Hansel made a motion to approve the minutes of September 5, 2018. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brehme, which carried unanimously.

3. Committee Membership

Chair Shedd reported that Ken Dooley from SAU 29 has submitted a letter requesting appointment; however, his request did not make it on the last two City Council meetings. She noted that Mr. Dooley will be appointed at the next City Council meeting, which won't be until November 1st.

In addition, Cary Gaunt has not yet submitted a letter requesting appointment to the committee. Chair Shedd reported Ms. Gaunt is still planning to seek appointment.

Chair Shedd reminded the Committee to start thinking about if they are planning to continue as a member of the ECC. She noted that if everyone continues as members, along with Mr. Dooley and Ms. Gaunt, the ECC will be back up to full membership.

4. Sustainable Energy Plan

Ms. Brunner provided the Committee with a handout which includes a draft scope of work and timeline for developing an energy plan along with spaces to assign tasks.

a. Antioch University CSI Proposal

Chair Shedd noted in the Committee's packet there is a proposal for a "collaborative service initiative" (CSI) project for a group of students from Antioch University to work on the energy plan. Chair Shedd explained that, if it is accepted, the CSI team would assist with doing a literature review, data collection and analysis, and conducting focus groups. In addition, the team would also present the findings and recommendations to City staff. Chair Shedd noted that she has not heard back from Sarah Bockus about whether the proposal was accepted. Chair Shedd asked the ECC if anyone knew the timeframe for the CSI project. Ms. Baum replied that she thought it was sometime in early October. Chair Shedd reported that Jason Rhoades, a faculty member at Antioch University, reviewed the CSI proposal and said he would encourage students to consider the project.

Chair Shedd reported that at Keene State College (KSC), Dr. Cusack's class is working on a solar project. Vice Chair Hansel added that he and Ms. Brunner met with two KSC students who are doing a project to try to determine the number and location of existing residential solar installations in Keene. In addition, they are assessing the potential for solar on Keene residential properties. Vice Chair Hansel reported that Ms. Brunner was able to put together a current list of solar installations that shows the streets where solar installations are located throughout the city. Vice Chair Hansel stated this was a good starting list to help identify where solar is located. He noted another missing component is the ability to identify potential sites.

Vice Chair Hansel reported that the KSC students will use GIS and aerial photography to determine the actual potential for future sites. In addition, the students discussed the solar garden concept. Vice Chair Hansel offered to put the students in touch with a contact who was interested in operating a solar garden in New Hampshire in the past.

Mr. Pipp asked whether someone would need to obtain a building permit in order to install a solar system. Ms. Brunner replied in the affirmative. However, she noted that the building permit data is not easy to sort for solar projects. If someone is applying for a building permit to install just a solar PV system, then the “description” field of the building permit is likely to contain the word “solar” and those permits will show up in a search for the word “solar.” In the case where the solar installation is one small part of a much larger project, however, the word “solar” may not be in the permit description field and therefore would not show up in a search. She noted that she has provided the committee with a list of all solar installations in Keene that was provided by the Assessing Department; this list is a full and comprehensive list of all solar installations in the city. Vice Chair Hansel stated that another source that could be used to gather this information is Eversource. He noted that he is trying to get this information through his contact with Eversource.

Vice Chair Hansel stated that the solar installation data will help establish a baseline that should be included in the energy plan. He added this will also help inform the ECC and the city of where they are now in terms of residential solar.

Mr. Pipp asked if the KSC project that is using GIS to determine potential solar will be doing more of a “deep dive” than what previous KSC classes have done. Mr. Brehme replied that one student is using LIDAR to look at roof slopes, vegetation height, and shadow potential. The students will also go out to the sites to spot-check the data and make sure it is accurate.

Vice Chair Hansel noted there are a lot of slate roofs in Keene and they talked about the issue of these roofs with regards to installing solar PV systems on them. He noted that Germany has a lot of slate roofs and most are covered with solar panels. The Committee then discussed how the Partner City Committee is going on a visit to Einbeck, Germany. Chair Shedd noted this was a part of today’s agenda and would be discussed later in the meeting.

Mr. Brehme stated that KSC students may be looking for advice from the ECC on how to best distribute a survey to Keene residents that asks residents if they would consider changing to solar.

b. Establishing GHG/Energy Targets

With no further comment, Chair Shedd moved to the Sustainable Energy Plan, Literature Review and referred to task 1.1.

Task 1.1 *Conduct research on efforts of other communities in sustainable energy planning.* She noted the proposal for Antioch University includes expanding on this notion.

Chair Shedd stated the majority of the grid is on task 3.3, which she noted is going to take most of the work.

Task 3.3 *Write Energy Action Plan*

Ms. Brunner noted that the information gathered during the data collection phase of the project, along with the community and stakeholder input, will feed into the Energy Action Plan. Vice Chair Hansel referred to the fact that the proposed scope of work and timeline takes a year and half or more to complete the plan. He stated that it would be beneficial for volunteers from this group to take on some of the tasks in order to compress this into a faster time frame. Ms. Brunner stated that the scope of work and timeline assumes that City staff would be able to spend about 4-5 hours per week on this project. However, she noted that she is not sure this level of effort is possible given the current workload.

Chair Shedd then referred to task 1.3, *“Review City's planning documents to identify energy related goals/action items that should be incorporated into this planning effort.”* Vice Chair Hansel noted this is where the scope of work gets confusing. He stated that other cities have set a goal early in the game and then they developed a plan to accomplish that goal. He stated he thinks the ECC needs to determine whether or not to go that route before setting goals.

Ms. Brunner noted that the Task 1, the Literature Review is more background research. She suggested that setting a vision and goals might fall under Community and Stakeholder Engagement.

c. Next Steps

Chair Shedd recognized guests Nancy Gillard and Carolyn Jones who are with the Monadnock Progressive Alliance (MPA) Clean Energy Team. She noted that this group has been diligently working over a year toward the Sierra Club *“Ready for 100”* (RF100) goals and how to bring them to Keene. Chair Shedd referred to the draft RF100 resolution this group has developed, noting that is almost ready to bring to City Council. Chair Shedd asked Ms. Gillard if she wished to speak about the draft RF100 resolution. Ms. Gillard stated that the MPA Clean Energy Team is in the process of meeting with the City Councilors to get their feedback on the proposal. In addition, they will be meeting with businesses to talk about the draft RF100 resolution, which they hope to present to the City Council in early November.

Chair Shedd asked how the RF100 resolution would be routed through City channels. Councilor Clark noted that the Mayor could refer the resolution to the ECC in addition to a City Council Committee. He noted this would be a matter of asking the Mayor to do so. Chair Shedd asked what information the Committee would need in order to provide a recommendation to City Council. She noted that the RF100 resolution as written could be tweaked.

Vice Chair Hansel suggested looking at this in a separate committee. Councilor Clark stated that once the charge is given to the ECC, the ECC will delegate the tasks and

responsibilities. Vice Chair Hansel asked what the ECC will need to do in order to come up with a recommendation back to the Council.

Chair Shedd stated that she was thinking that public input would be important in terms of the adoption of these goals. Perhaps the ECC should consider holding a public meeting so that members of the public could participate in the discussion. Ms. Brunner noted that all ECC meetings are open to the public, however the usual room is not large enough for a crowd. Chair Shedd said in terms of process she will need to talk to with the Mayor when he returns from Einbeck. Vice Chair Hansel stated that it seems the only problem with the ECC voting yes or no, is that the ECC does not know if there has been enough gathered data to present to the City Council.

Chair Shedd noted staff time to work on the energy plan will be minimal. Ms. Brunner responded stated that she could still play a supporting role but does not have a lot of time to dedicate to this project right now. She referred to Vice Chair Hansel's suggestion about setting up a subcommittee meeting. Ms. Brunner added that she would be happy to help with the logistics of setting up a subcommittee. Vice Chair Hansel recommended that the ECC not let this topic fester too long and to make a recommendation fairly quickly. Chair Shedd stated she thinks everything has to be in order before making a recommendation.

Mr. Brehme asked if Ms. Gillard has met with any City Councilors. Ms. Gillard replied they have met with some of the City Councilors. Mr. Brehme asked what the response has been. Ms. Gillard replied they have been told to go for it.

Vice Chair Hansel stated that the one thing he would like to do is prepare a draft motion that would detail why the ECC is supporting the RF100 Resolution. In addition, he stated that he would like to see the ECC vote on this at the next meeting.

Chair Shedd asked who will write the motion. Vice Chair Hansel stated that he would be willing to work on the draft and will bring it to the next meeting.

5. Potential Keene Solarize Campaign

Chair Shedd stated the deadline for forming a team for a solarize campaign in Keene in 2019 is fast approaching. The campaign would focus on accelerating the adoption of solar energy on the local level. She asked the ECC to reach out to people that may be interested in putting a campaign together. Vice Chair Hansel stated that he has one person that would be willing to volunteer. Chair Shedd stated that it takes several months of setting up the campaign, setting up a launch and preparing promotions. In addition, she noted the people need to have their site evaluations approved in advance for the installers. She noted all of this needs to start happening in the next month.

Chair Shedd reported that Peterborough and Hancock will team up to have a solarize campaign as well as Jaffrey and Rindge. She noted that she would love to see a campaign happen in Keene. In addition, she said that if the campaign does not happen in

2019, the federal tax credit will start to sunset. Therefore, it would be best to do the solarize campaign before the tax credits starts to decrease.

Councilor Clark noted that the people who should be most motivated would be the installers that do this work. Chair Shedd explained that having installers participate as part of the volunteer team would be a conflict of interest because the volunteer team will need to choose installers using a fair and transparent selection process.

6. Community Education and Engagement Opportunities

a. Delegation visit from Einbeck, Germany (sister city)

Chair Shedd reported that there are some upcoming exchanges with the city's sister city of Einbeck, Germany. She said that Einbeck's Mayor will be visiting Keene in the spring, and noted that this could be an opportunity to learn about what Einbeck is doing in terms of renewable energy and energy efficiency. She said that she spoke with Mayor Lane and he said that Einbeck is a heavily agriculture area. In addition, the Mayor noted that every farm field has a wind turbine. Chair Shedd stated that Einbeck also gets a lot of offshore wind from the North Sea. She said that the Mayor suggested that someone from the ECC should attend an exchange to Germany. She noted that he ECC could have a lot to learn from Einbeck. Ms. Brunner announced there is a Partner City Committee (PCC) meeting in October and that the PCC is setting the itinerary for the spring exchange. Members of the ECC are welcome to attend this meeting, which is open to the public.

b. Energy Awareness Month

Chair Shedd stated that October is historically Energy Awareness Month. The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) has declared October 10, 2018 as Energy Efficiency Day. She asked that someone in the ECC write a quick letter to editor of The Keene Sentinel that discusses the importance of this day.

c. Other

Chair Shedd said that she was forwarded an email from the City Manager regarding a Liberty Utilities PUC filing to collect, clean, and use the methane emissions from the Bethlehem landfill to provide natural gas to Liberty's propane customers in Keene and natural gas customers throughout their service territory in New Hampshire. She asked if the email was shared for informational purposes for the Committee or whether the City Manager was looking for comments from the ECC. Ms. Brunner replied that she was simply asked to share the information with the ECC.

Councilor Clark stated that he has been discussing these types of projects with the City Manager over the last several months, and he has asked that the ECC be kept in the loop. He explained that this particular proposal from Liberty Utilities is an attempt to address public concerns about bringing natural gas into Keene. He stated they have decided to

add Keene to the customer base to try to take away some of the negative sentiment regarding the proposed pipeline underneath the Ashuelot River. Councilor Clark noted that the City Manager is doing her best to provide background information to the ECC. Ms. Baum noted that it appears as though this is a tactic by the company to try and appear environmentally friendly in order to reduce public resistance to their projects. Councilor Clark said he agrees with this assessment, and added that it is actually better to flare methane gas from the landfill than to collect it and truck it out to communities because of the methane leakage that occurs during the collection and transportation process. Methane is a much more powerful greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Chair Shedd thanked Councilor Clark for sharing this information, and noted it might be a good idea to include figures for methane leakage in the energy plan.

Ms. Brunner said that in the past, the ECC has discussed having a “Communications Working Group.” Mr. Brehme offered to be a part of this working group at a previous meeting, and is still interested. Jess Baum said that she would be interested at some point, but does not have time at the moment to participate in a working group. She said she would have time in the new year.

Chair Shedd that the ECC could consider hosting a community forum at some point with the folks from Hanover and Concord to learn how those communities are working on achieving their “100% Renewable Energy” goals.

7. ECC Retreat

Chair Shedd stated the ECC should plan a retreat, especially if the City adopts the “Ready for 100” goals before end of this year. She asked that this be placed back on the agenda at next month’s meeting for further discussion. Ms. Brunner said she would send a Doodle poll in early 2019 to schedule this retreat.

8. Climate and Health Planning in the Monadnock Region (Henry Underwood, SWRPC)

Henry Underwood introduced himself to the ECC. He stated that he is a planner at Southwest Region Planning Commission in Keene. Mr. Underwood reported they serve 33 towns on a variety of issues such as land use, economic development, transportation and public health.

Mr. Understood stated that he was joined today by Janine Marr, a PhD candidate at Antioch University. Ms. Marr is currently working as a research assistant on the project that he is going to share with the ECC today. He noted that this is a climate and health related topic. He noted in past years the ECC has given some attention to climate and health related issues.

He reported that SWRPC and Antioch University are both working in the capacity of consultants for the region’s public health network. He explained the goal of this project is to understand how climate and weather are contributing to different illnesses, health

hazards and other things of that nature. Mr. Underwood stated that both groups are working together to help mitigate to prevent these from happening.

He stated the project he will be discussing today is a follow up to a previous project undertaken by the Public Health Network, called the Climate and Health Adaptation Plan. He noted this took place in 2016 and 2017. He stated that the Planning Commission and Antioch acted as consultants to conduct research into what climate and weather issues were impacting our region. He added that each of those issues has associated health problems. For example, a longer growing season can mean in some cases more exposure to allergens. In addition changes to air temperatures that can result in higher ozone concentrations in the atmosphere. More high heat days means more heat related illnesses on those days. He said as part of the development of the plan they itemized eight of these climate impacts and looked at the data they could find to determine which are the highest priorities for our region. In our region, the Public Health Network prioritized extreme weather events. This includes extreme precipitation events and issues related to mental wellbeing, injuries and other things related to those events such as floods.

The second part of the project involved identifying populations that were more vulnerable to the climate and health hazards and what public health interventions could be designed and implemented to help that group. He said there was a secondary research and data collections exercise where they looked at different populations that were documented to experience more injuries and illnesses during a flood. He noted they looked at the low income populations, older adults, and emergency responders themselves. He stated they had to focus on one group and they chose to focus on older adults. He stated an intervention was designed that included educational material about emergency preparedness, creating a plan, getting connected with emergency alerts and training evaluations. He said they did a lot of research and learned some ways the Public Health Networks feels the issue can be approached.

Mr. Underwood said that the Public Health Network found an additional funding source to do more of this work through the CDC, through the "Climate Ready States and Cities Initiative." He reported that NH is participating through the Department of Health and Human Services. The Monadnock Region created a proposal to continue this work in what they are calling the BRACE (Building Resilience Against Climate Effects). The Public Health Network wrote a proposal to continue working on extreme precipitation and health interventions. That project is starting now, and in their proposal they want to get out and begin having conversations with people.

Mr. Underwood noted the ECC was written in the proposal due to the ECC's experience with climate related issues and previous work in what the climate could be doing to the region's health. He reported over the next two months they will be learning more about needs of emergency responders. He explained this project will result in an updated plan of action and that they will implement an intervention between now and end of 2020. Over the next two months they will be having conversations on this topic and are compiling information to help the Public Health Network decide what interventions will work best during a flood. Mr. Underwood noted this would be focused on older adults.

Mr. Underwood asked the ECC for questions.

Vice Chair Hansel asked Mr. Underwood what social service organizations are they working with at this time. Mr. Underwood replied this is a regional project and they are working with regional public health groups such as HCS and MDS. He explained this is within the Public Health Network and have a body called the Council for a Healthy Monadnock.

Vice Chair Hansel asked if they are focusing on any infrastructure changes that may mitigate some effects of flooding. Mr. Underwood replied as part of this project there is some funding for implementation, however they cannot replace hard infrastructure. He noted this was not that type of intervention project. Mr. Underwood state this could include changes to the environment.

Mr. Underwood noted that the funders want to see results. Ideally, this would be through interventions that can confidently state the number of injuries, drownings or evacuations that have occurred and show that they have gone down.

Mr. Underwood noted the following was previously talked about for interventions:

- Registries of information that contain individual needs during an emergency
- Supplemental training to help better protect people
- Training for public safety personnel
- A block captain for neighborhoods
- Enhancing early warning systems

Chair Shedd refereed to the city's Hazard Mitigation Plan that needs to be updated on a regular basis and asked if there are best practices for incorporating this information into the hazard mitigation plan. Mr. Underwood replied that this is not a formal of their part of proposal and noted this was a great idea. Mr. Underwood noted there are always opportunities where this could be distributed.

Mr. Underwood stated that would like to continue this conversation with the ECC. He asked if the ECC would be interested in hearing more about this at a future meeting.

Councilor Clark stated that he is interested in hearing about some of the changes that people may be unaware of as well as the trends that are expect to occur as climate changes happen. Mr. Underwood stated that the development of the Climate Adaption Plan includes some of that background research that is relevant to our region. He noted the occurrence of larger storms in Keene and the fact that these storms are statistically increasing.

Chair Shedd stated Mr. Underwood could work through Ms. Brunner to set up another time to have a conversation with the committee. Chair Shedd stated they will try to do something at next the meeting.

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Chair Shedd asked the ECC to answer the questions on the handout before the next meeting and to send questions or recommendations for Mr. Underwood to Ms. Brunner.

Mr. Underwood will return to the next ECC meeting to address these questions and recommendations from the Committee.

9. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 7, 2018

Chair Shedd adjourned the meeting at 9:32 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jennifer Clark, Minute-Taker

Reviewed and edited by Mari Brunner, Planning Technician