

Minutes of Monthly Meeting
Sustainable Hanover - Energy Initiative
May 10, 2022
Via Zoom

Attending: Yolanda Baumgartner, Bill Brown, Barb Callaway, Judi Colla, Julia Griffin, Andrew Hatch, Rob Houseman, Robin Kaiser, Sarah Kelly, Peter Kulbacki, Marjorie Rogalski, Ben Steele, Rob Taylor

Guests: Reed Cole '24, Piper Edwards '25 (Dartmouth students)

Announcements

Next meeting will be a joint meeting with Sustainable Hanover on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, 8:30 a.m.

Barb announced that on May 21, there will be an electric lawn equipment show & tell on the Thetford Green, co-hosted by Thetford and Norwich. They are asking for participants to fill out a questionnaire. Barb will send the announcement out to everyone.

Updates

Sarah Kelly reported that students have finished their survey for assessing the energy burden experienced by Dartmouth students and staff living off campus. They will be giving a final update of all their projects on May 31—the last day of class.

Piper Edwards reported that his team has interviewed two leaders of the California Community Choice Association (CAL CCA). Reed Cole added that his team is doing a lot of research on Upper Valley demographics. The policy group has enjoyed good speakers.

Another team is conducting an energy audit of a rental house occupied by students. Andrew is working with the students under Sarah's leadership and will be taking a field trip on May 17 to a local residence on Lebanon St. (above Jewel of India restaurant) to walk through an energy audit. He will follow up with Sarah to discuss the landlord's project. Rob Houseman helped to facilitate this project.

Video Update

Judi shared information about the video being developed to celebrate the Town's historic vote 5 years ago committing to its 100% renewable energy goals. It is currently about 30 minutes long; we need a 10 minute version. Stowe Beam, Yolanda and Kevin Keller from Tuck are all advising on the project.

CPCNH

Julia participated in a member operations and communications session this morning during which they discussed an anticipated timeline for next year. There are 19 communities now on the Board. She estimates we will be bidding for green electricity by 2023. The PUC still needs to approve the rules.

Tuck First Year Project (FYP)

Julia reported that the Tuck FYP presentation will be on May 17 at 11:00 a.m. and will be recorded. The students have an exciting plan for encouraging our large consumers of power to move to green electricity through a power purchase agreement (PPA). Dartmouth, Hypertherm, and Kendall are extremely receptive. The only place where students could not make headway was in getting data from Liberty.

Solar

Rob Taylor commented that we should spread the word to current and potential owners of solar systems that they can get their projects registered by the utility so that they can sell their RECs. If you don't register your project, the utility can sweep unused (unclaimed) RECs. The utility can then use these RECs to meet their minimum requirements for green energy production. By not registering your project and allowing the utility access to your RECs, the utility does not have to produce as much green electricity.

It is possible to register your project and not sell your RECs, if you so choose. Yolanda is still researching how to go about this. Julia recommended having something on the Solarize page informing people of this issue and explaining how to go about registering your project and selling your RECs.

Schools

Yolanda says there is not much to report, although she did have a conversation with Carey Callaghan on the Town Finance Committee in which they discussed why it's cost effective to invest in energy efficiency in the schools. Yolanda would like to invite him to the Tuck FYP presentation.

Tuck students met with the Dresden School system as part of their research; they don't think the schools are ready to move on this. Andrew reports that he, too, has had little success with the Dresden schools.

The schools are in the middle of a strategic planning cycle.

Efficiency

Andrew reports that the PUC finally ruled on energy efficiency -- published the order on a Friday afternoon and buried the release. The 39 page document didn't derail anything that the utilities had proposed. The utilities' reaction to the PUC order is that they are burdened with a lot of additional reporting.

Andrew reports that the energy efficiency program hasn't been restored and that we've gone backwards. Incentives for lighting have been removed, although there are still no-interest loans available. Andrew says that, at the moment, the residential efficiency program is in better shape than the commercial program. Still, he is back in business and money is available.

Window Dressers

Yolanda reports that the program is moving forward without advertising. They already have orders for 150 of a targeted goal of 250 inserts. They are trying to save the last 100 for people

who need assistance. In this connection, they're trying to sign up people through the Listen Center.

Thetford has been taking the lead in window inserts, but their two leaders have had to step back, and no one has stepped up to replace them. As a result, they have asked if Hanover could accommodate their low-income folks.

Dennis has joined the planning group; he is at a window dresser training session today.

Yolanda reports that inserts are great for any home, including rental properties in Hanover for students.

They are also trying to give people LEDs to replace their incandescent bulbs.

Transportation

Electric Vehicles (EV) and Charging

Pete and Ben report that the planning for EV charging in Hanover is ongoing. Pete has received only two responses to his request for proposals. He has not yet had a chance to review them.

Ben reports that there is a hearing on May 20 for how NH is going to use money earmarked for EV infrastructure. He asks if we should prepare a coordinated testimony. Julia suggests having a quick zoom meeting with people who are interested to present a targeted, joint response. Should include Rosi Kerr from Dartmouth and Lebanon's Tad Montgomery.

E-Bikes

Announcements regarding the E-Bike program in June go out this week, and the reservation system will be live for signing up for June slots. There will be 4 E-Bikes; one will be foldable.

They are going to be doing a presentation on site at Gile Hill, after overcoming some insurance concerns. Vital Communities has been great as the sponsoring organization.

There are plans for an unpaved bike path going from the Ray School to Verona Ave and possibly going on to Valley Road Extension and the Dartmouth Indoor Practice Facility.

Respectfully submitted by Robin Kaiser, June 4, 2022