

CITIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 8:00 AM 2nd Floor **Committee** Conference Room, City Hall

Members:

Dr. Ann Shedd, Chair
Peter Hansel, Vice Chair
Jessica Baum, Member
Gary Lamoureux, Councilor
Terry Clark, Councilor
Larry Dachowski, Alternate
Jake Pipp, Guest

Staff: Michele Chalice, City Planner

Members not present:

Chris Brehme, Member
Mari Brunner, Member

1. Call To Order and Roll Call

2. Approval of January 3, 2018 minutes and January 18, 2018 Retreat minutes

Vice Chair Hansel moved to accept January 3 minutes, Councilor Clark seconded and motion passed unanimously. Vice Chair Hansel moved to accept January 18 retreat minutes with revisions, Councilor Clark seconded and motion passed unanimously. Revisions are as follows:

Page 5, change pronouns from “they” to “we”

Page 8, add..... Regional Adaptation Working groups including people at the level of hospitals, **City regional planning staff and business community leaders.**

2. April Busby, Keene Housing, Planning & Policy Analyst; Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy Projects

Due to the snowstorm, Ms. Busby could not attend today’s meeting.

3. Terra Rogers, Southwest Community Services, Director of Energy & Employment Programs; SCS Energy Efficiency Projects

Due to the snowstorm, Ms. Rogers could not attend today’s meeting.

4. Motion/Vote for Proposed New Committee Name

Chair Shedd proposed that the committee not decide a name this meeting if it needs go through. She said they discussed at the Retreat the new name would include the words “energy” and “climate” and the brochure says “energy and climate change” program so she suggested the name “Energy and Climate Committee.” She suggested omitting the word “advisory” because all City committees are advisory committees. Chair Shedd the current mission statement states: “created to aid in the reduction of

greenhouse gas emissions and to increase the community's adaptive capacity to the expected impacts of a changing climate in order to protect the viability of the community and to protect public health, safety and welfare." She said they might consider changing wording "to monitor and advocate for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and to increase the community's resilience to the expected impacts of a changing climate." She questioned the word "viability" and how the community would interpret that term. Ms. Chalice agreed keeping the wording "public, safety and welfare." Vice Chair Hansel suggested coming up with a draft mission statement that members can vote on at next month's agenda. Chair Shedd said if they are going to be an energy committee, the current statement does not include the word "energy." Ms. Chalice suggested referring to the 100% Renewables campaign for language. Chair Shedd suggested also looking at the other energy committees around the state for language. Ms. Chalice said she has access to the NH Planner's listserv and she could ask them about other energy committee mission statements. Chair Shedd said that Mr. Henry Herndon and NH Sustainable Energy might have some wording as they have a listserv of energy committees around the state. Ms. Chalice agreed that was a good idea.

6. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Update

Chair Shedd shared that Ms. Brunner had informed her that there is another glitch in the Greenhouse Gas Emissions report. She said when the report made it to Mr. Lamb's desk, he questioned the date on the methane capture at the transfer station. He stated it had begun in 1994, which was before the baseline in 1995. Chair Shedd said that Ms. Brunner told her a couple of weeks ago that there were seven wells at the transfer station in 1994 and the landfill was not yet capped, and in 1999 approximately a dozen additional wells were sunk and the landfill was capped. Chair Shedd said that moving forward, the City will need to verify that information, the impact of the information and recalculate the results that showed a significant decrease in greenhouse gas emissions due to methane capture. She said this is discouraging news Ms. Brunner would be able to share more information.

Vice Chair Hansel shared that New Hampshire Energy Week will take place the week of March 12 and Keene is the first city on the agenda. He said they are hosting an event in Keene on March 12 from 4:30-6:00 pm. Vice Chair Hansel said they are still crafting an agenda for the meeting and he was hoping to have the Greenhouse Gas Emissions report as a topic to share with the public. Chair Shedd stated that short of rolling out the entire report, perhaps highlighting what Keene has been able to achieve specifically with energy could be a good compromise. Vice Chair Hansel agreed. Vice Chair Hansel said that Elm City Brewery is being considered as a venue but they have not finalized a location for the event yet. Chair Shedd said Chamber of Commerce and Southwest Regional Planning are working on the event. She said they have the brochure for the City of Keene that does highlight some of the progress they have made and the brochure has not been widely distributed yet. She said the event could be a good place for disseminating that information. Vice Chair Hansel said that perhaps there is no need to go into the study itself and instead point out energy accomplishments for Keene.

Chair Shedd said she has verified that there will be an Earth Fest at the the Monadnock Co-Op. The Co-Op also has an intern working on the event which will take place Saturday, April 21 from 12-4 pm, with a rain date of Sunday the 22nd, which is actual Earth Day. She said they will be putting out a call for participants in the next couple of weeks. Chair Shedd stated that CCP has tabled at Earth Fest a couple of times before. She said the Monadnock Climate Alliance Action Team will be rolling out there 100% Renewables Campaign there and it will be a good venue for showcasing the City's progress.

Vice Chair Hansel stated that the question when the wells came online would be verifiable in seconds. Councilor Clark said Duncan was there from the beginning and he should be able to speak to when they came online. Mr. Dachowski stated that there has clearly been improvement from baseline it is just a

matter of what percentage. Chair Shedd said the fact that they have decreased emissions in the first place is significant in and of itself. Vice Chair Hansel said they could have a footnote explaining that baseline was moved up from the year before. Chair Shedd shared that perhaps the metrics are not as important as the work itself and there is still much more to do and progress is a significant achievement.

Chair Shedd stated that they have been holding off on providing new targets for Keene and they did not discuss new targets at the Retreat, however, with the upcoming likely community push for 100% renewables, perhaps tapping into community-based targets would be reasonable. She shared that the 100% Renewables Campaign is spearheaded by the national Sierra Club and there are about 50 cities, large and small, signed up already. Their specific targets are aimed at 100% renewable for electricity by 2035 (Hanover, New Hampshire's target is 2030) and 100% renewable for electricity, heating and transportation by 2050. She said CCP's existing 2007 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan does invoke that 50% of Keene's unspecified energy should be renewable by 2027. Vice Chair Hansel said that some of the cities that have accomplished 100% renewable electricity have done so by acquiring renewable energy production, such as hydro dams. He said they have done that as a municipality requiring that community energy be sourced from local energy production. He said others have done it by purchasing from the grid. He asked if purchasing from the grid, how to get everyone else to buy into it because it is more expensive, unless like Peterborough, it is achieved through aggregate buying to negotiate a better deal. Mr. Pipp asked if the goals that the City has set are for City operations only or for everything within the boundaries of the City. He shared that Concord goals are both municipal and community. Chair Shedd replied that City of Keene goals also include both municipal and community.

Ms. Chalice joined the meeting and shared that there were some interesting comments regarding the idea of municipal vs. the entire community at a meeting she and Chair Shedd attended the other night. She said there were points on both sides that some communities might be excited about being required to buy renewable energy and other communities may be reluctant to be told what to buy through the town. Vice Chair Hansel agreed that this issue could be true in many communities and the City could ask brokers to source only renewable energy. Ms. Chalice spoke to creating a competitive edge in advertising to get communities on board with the idea. Chair Shedd stated that education and information-sharing in a forum setting is important in creating awareness about how successful cities achieved renewable energy goals. Vice Chair Hansel said that someone needs to make an economic case in addition to an environmental case to communities to determine financial feasibility outlooks for each community. Chair Shedd shared that the 2007 Climate Action plan states that the target is to **provide 50% of municipal and community energy needs locally through local renewable energy resource development such as small scale wind, micro-hydro, solar, geothermal and other renewable resources by 2027.** Ms. Chalice asked members if they had read the Concord white paper that Chair Shedd sent out and asked if there was an economic analysis in there. She said Portsmouth has also developed a white paper. Mr. Pipp said that it included general numbers on cost projections. Ms. Chalice said numbers would be very important to City Council in Keene.

Ms. Chalice stated that Ms. Brunner had addressed the glitch in the Greenhouse Gas Report and she is on schedule to have it out to City Council. Vice Chair Hansel restated he would like to have the information by March 12 for NH Energy Week. Ms. Chalice said Ms. Brunner is on schedule by that date. She said CCP can decide how to roll out the information to the public and she can assist them with generating a press release, leaflet, pamphlets and other ideas. Vice Chair Hansel suggested having a person to share his story. Chair Shedd nominated Mr. Lamb. Ms. Chalice agreed that Mr. Lamb is well-respected and is an experienced speaker on the City's Climate Change plans, but does not have a business that has implemented a renewable energy project. Vice Chair Hansel, however, could share his company's story, playing a role in the community. Ms. Chalice said she could come up with case study sheets for committee to identify what areas they would like to highlight in a working group. Chair Shedd replied that the kickoff event for NH Energy Week is March 12 and they do not have a lot of time to plan. Vice

Chair Hansel stated that the presentation is only 15 minutes long and emphasized the importance of featuring stories from Keene. Ms. Chalice recommended that the Chairs contact Mr. Lamb to share his story about Keene.

Councilor Clark motioned that the committee ask Mr. Lamb to present for NH Energy Week in Keene, Vice Chair Hansel seconded and motion passed by unanimous vote. Ms. Chalice said Mr. Lamb can use the brochure to guide his discussion and he is a seasoned presenter. Chair Shedd said that when the report comes out there may be a national response to it and Mr. Lamb may become a spokesperson. Ms. Chalice suggested that in the event Mr. Lamb cannot make the presentation that a Council member be considered as an alternative. Councilor Clark nominated Councilor Lamoureux who used to be the Fire Chief but Councilor Lamoureux was not present at the meeting.

Retreat review:

Chair Shedd said she wanted to spend a few minutes talking about the few decisions that came out of the Retreat. Mr. Dachowski asked if CCP is supposed to provide the City Council with detailed nuts and bolts of how to achieve an energy plan objective or are they supposed to be aspirational instead. Chair Shedd replied that they already have documents detailing the aspirations and those documents have already been accepted by City Council. She said they are ready to dive into the inventory of what the potential is. She said the energy plan now would be geared now towards implementation: what is the current usage pattern, sources of energy, potential for renewable source, development of renewable sources, etc. Vice Chair Hansel called it an energy implementation plan for aspirations or goals that have already been determined. Councilor Clark shared that the plan would be more aspirational and then when Council adopts any recommendations from CCP they would hand it over to City staff. Ms. Chalice said Durham's energy committee did write their plan so it is possible for a committee to write an energy plan.

Chair Shedd stated that energy plan would require technical support needed for inventory potential. She said an early step should involve exploring the cost of hiring a professional consultant to look at renewable potential. She came across one company that is New Hampshire-based that could give a ballpark figure. Ms. Chalice said that process normally requires an RFP that is specific, however, the committee could research what other communities have done and that could be incorporated in the RFP. Mr. Pip said Chair Shedd was referring more for an early estimate and not yet an RFP request. Mr. Dachowski stated that the pitch could state that the City of Keene started out ahead in energy but compared to other communities Keene is losing its edge.

Committee Support:

Ms. Chalice stated that City is asking staff to come up with a budget of hours they are allotted to spend on committee work. She said she will know soon how much time she will be allowed to spend doing work for the committee. Ms. Chalice said the City is looking for consistency in time spent between committees. She said there may be staffing changes in the near future and now would be a good time to suggest aspects of a Sustainability Coordinator be incorporated into Planning staff. The Committee makes recommendations to City Council. Chair Shedd said she would like to write a letter to the Planning Director referencing the need for "establishing energy efficiency environmental coordinator position" per the 2004 and 2007 Climate Action Plan and stating that 25% of the planner's time would be allocated to CCP program. She said it also referenced that the position could become self-funding. Ms. Chalice said that the greater need is the community aspect and that she would suggest not emphasizing the savings to the City. Chair Shedd said they could also invoke how much the City has already spent on outsourced labor through hiring Antioch and Keene State College students and Ms. Brunner's time on the greenhouse gas report as well. Ms. Baum suggested providing an estimation of how much back tracking and inefficient work came out of previous hires to highlight that time and resources are duplicated and it

would be more efficient to have a Sustainability Coordinator. Chair Shedd shared that EPA has a tool called Portfolio Manager that allows monitoring monthly and annual energy costs primarily in terms of usage and market rates (cost). She said implementing that across all the facilities whose data they would need to collect for their reports could be very helpful. She said Lebanon is in the process of creating an Energy and Facilities Manager position and Hanover is creating a similar position.

Councilor Clark stated that the Planning Department is low on staff and it might be more feasible to ask for an Energy Planner instead. He said that a recommendation would most likely need to be supported by City Council before creating a new position. Chair Shedd agreed that reorganizing of staff time could be a less expensive avenue. Councilor Clark said that would not need to go to Council. Ms. Chalice said reorganization is a strong timing issue as well. Mr. Pip asked who would be in charge of creating the position. Ms. Chalice said Keene State College has a position they could grab language from. Ms. Chalice asked Ms. Baum to send a description of her job at W.S. Badger Company where she works as a Sustainability Manager. Ms. Chalice suggested crafting a position description in the next month or two but encouraged a conversation with Mr. Lamb would be best. Councilor Clark recommended emphasizing that the City Mayor and City Manager have asked for more support for CCP. Ms. Baum suggested providing examples with several case studies from other cities and their cost savings. Mr. Pip said some research, for example, cities switching to LED lights and cost savings associated with that, would be feasible. Ms. Chalice encouraged him to research other cities and send her the information. Chair Shedd said the 2004 report did allude to Somerville, MA having a full-time Environmental Coordinator and Medford, MA having a part-time Energy Efficiency Coordinator and they could perhaps research the economic savings produced from those positions.

Chair Shedd asked which members are interested in participating in an ad hoc working group to determine next steps for preparing a communication to City Council. Councilor Clark said he is interested. Vice Chair Hansel said he is too busy. Ms. Baum said she has little time but can share knowledge. Ms. Chalice suggested Mr. Pipp do research if he cannot be on the ad hoc working group as it is limited to three people. Ms. Baum said she is happy to be a resource for the working group and not a member if committee decides that is best. Chair Shedd asked which three members will participate in the working group. Vice Chair Hansel said they had discussed at the Retreat the idea of making CCP meetings longer. Ms. Chalice said she will look into it. Chair Shedd asked how many members could meet from 8 am to 9:30 am. Ms. Chalice said she would check if the minute taker can stay longer as well. Chair Shedd said Mr. Dachowski, Ms. Baum and Councilor Clark can meet as a working group to make the case to the Planning Director to carve out some specific staff time for energy and sustainability matters. Ms. Chalice suggested making the case for having staff support for particular items that have been requested by the City and supported by City Manager and Mayor. Councilor Clark said they need staff time to make sure everyone is on the same page. Chair Shedd said she will forward the wording to the whole committee. Ms. Baum reminded the group that Mr. Pipp would do research so he should be present as well. Chair Shedd said she would send the quotation from the 2004 Climate Action Plan regarding the Energy position to the committee.

Updates: Chair Shedd updated the committee that Monday last week Vice Chair Hansel and Mr. Clark attended an initial gathering of Southwest Regional New Hampshire members to see what a regional energy hub would potentially look like. She said it was an exploratory conversation that involved looking at models of what is happening with other regional energy hubs around the state and different challenges they face. She said it varied from Upper Valley's municipal energy representatives getting together every month to discuss different ideas, to Plymouth and Hillsboro area's cooperative models of solar raisings to the Seacoast hub that runs the Solarized and Weatherized campaign. Chair Shedd said there was a meeting in Concord on Monday night called by the Civics Strategy group, a nonprofit consulting group, with help from New Hampshire Sustainable Energy and Mr. Roger Stevenson who is Director of NH Chapter of Union of Concerned Scientists, exploring at the state level what could be done collaboratively.

She said it was geared more towards smaller municipalities that have deliberative sessions for town meetings, some form of non-Mayor council select board decision-making, and what kinds of articles that are out there to advance the causes of renewable energy goals.

Ms. Chalice said Monday night's meeting was contracted by Next Gen hoping to get a renewable energy imperative on the "radar" and platform of new presidential candidates as they work their way through NH. They are exploring whether multiple Ready for 100% initiatives could be on many communities' town meeting warrant.

Chair Shedd shared a Sentinel article discussing a multi-state initiative to look at the possibilities of carbon pricing as a mechanism. She said Ms. Marge Shepherd from Marlborough is sponsoring a piece of legislation to explore what the price of carbon would be. She said CCP will eventually need to study up on carbon pricing models. Ms. Chalice asked if members would like to have the Sentinel to come in and discuss articles. Chair Shedd said she would contact Ms. Megan Foley herself. Ms. Chalice said there is a presentation to NH senators about carbon pricing and she can forward the PowerPoint to members if it would be helpful. Vice Chair Hansel replied yes. Chair Shedd said she had also asked Antioch if they would deliver a carbon pricing presentation and they were interested.

Ms. Baum said there is a vote coming up on February 21 at the City Council meeting about closing Lincoln Street on warm, wet nights when the salamanders and frogs cross. The issue is based on a NY times article that emphasized that preserving amphibian life is an important mitigation strategy for curbing carbon release. She said it is in connection to the Harris Center and would involve closing Lincoln Street entirely to allow safe crossings of amphibians and allow educational and volunteer opportunities for the public.

7. Adjournment – Next Meeting, Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Chair Shedd adjourned the meeting at 9:10 AM

Respectfully submitted by,

Ayshah Kassamali-Fox, Minute Taker