

CITY OF KEENE
Keene, New Hampshire

ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 6, 2018, 8:00 AM 2nd Floor Committee Conference Room, City Hall

Members:

Members:

Chair Ann Shedd, Chair

Peter Hansel, Vice Chair

Terry Clark, Councilor

Chris Brehme, Member

Jess Baum, Member

Jake Pipp, Member

Ken Dooley, Member

Larry Dachowski, Alternate

Aperr Naadzenga, Alternate

Staff present:

Staff:

Mari Brunner, Acting Planner

Rhett Lamb, ACM/Community Development

Director

Guests present:

Charles Daloz

Dee Robbins

Shaylin Salas

Fred Ward

1. Call to Order and Roll Call-

Chair Shedd called the meeting to order at 8:04 AM and roll call was conducted.

2. Approval of December 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes-

Councilor Clark moved to accept minutes December 5, 2018 minutes with revisions, Mr. Naadzenga seconded and motion passed unanimously.

Revisions as follows:

First paragraph, page 9, change: "Solarized" to "Solarize."

Mr. Brehme stated he was listed as present at the November 9 meeting, however, he was not present and it probably was Vice Chair Hansel's voice instead. Change "Mr. Brehme" to "Vice Chair Hansel."

3. ECC Retreat Debrief

Chair Shedd asked if there are any thoughts on process and content. Mr. Naadzenga stated the Retreat was well presented and planned and set good targets for their discussion.

4. Draft Vision & Values Statement

Ms. Brunner said she took the many ideas solicited during the Retreat, summarized them, and crafted draft vision and value statements. The summary notes and draft vision and values statements were included them in the packet for members to review ahead of the meeting. She asked for committee feedback.

Chair Shedd said some of what they talked about at the Retreat reflected the values they wanted included in the process of developing the Plan, and others were about what values they want incorporated in the end product of the Plan itself. She said Ms. Brunner's notes break those two pieces out into a split vision and values statement in the packet. Chair Shedd said this will be helpful as they hone the vision and values further. She suggested the committee wait at least one more month to digest the vision and value statements as members have not had much time to think them through, however, today they can go through the eight statements on the second page of the document.

Vision – What we are trying to achieve:

“We envision a future where our homes, transportation system and economy are powered by renewable, clean and affordable energy sources which support the well-being of both human and nonhuman life.”

Ms. Baum said the word “*nonhuman*” sounds awkward. Councilor Clark suggested using the term “flora and fauna” instead. Chair Shedd suggested that does not include microbial or fungal species and maybe the term “ecosystem health” is better. Mr. Brehme suggested using the words “health and well-being.” Ms. Brunner said the phrase “*human and nonhuman*” was thrown out several times during the Retreat and she did not want to miss or mischaracterize major ideas shared so she used the terms she heard. She also suggested stopping at “health and well-being.” Ms. Baum said that language can be misconstrued as only applying to humans. Councilor Clark suggested “life on earth.”

Chair Shedd asked for thoughts on the second part of the statement of the vision stated as:
“The production and distribution of energy for electricity, heating and transportation is safe and meets the needs of all business, residents and visitors and as a result the local economy will flourish.”

Vice Chair Hansel said the word “*safe*” is not necessarily the best word as it is not guaranteed that all renewable energy is safe. Mr. Naadzenga suggested the word “sustainable.” Ms. Brunner said she was trying to capture the value that all energy sources be “*safe*”, for example, in context of nuclear energy or energies that are known to be inherently unsafe. Chair Shedd suggested the wording “minimizes impact” instead as it considers the broad impact of any of the modalities. Ms. Baum suggested the wording “does not disrupt the balance of life” as it pertains to balanced ecosystems. Mr. Pipp added that there are wood-stove air quality issues in Keene that are not necessarily safe but are small scale energy sources. Vice Chair Hansel said “minimizing” is the best wording. Chair Shedd stated that “all energy sources impact somebody somewhere” so making it relative, instead of safe and absolute is important, and they should keep wordsmithing

that statement to convey the message that all energy sources have some impact but they are trying to minimize the broader, negative impacts.

Chair Shedd asked for thoughts on the statement:

“Everyone, including marginalized and vulnerable populations have access to affordable and clean, renewable energy that meets their everyday needs.”

Vice Chair Hansel said he is fine with that statement but it broadens their scope and goes into the social services realm which they do not have much control over. Councilor Clark said the Resolution talks about the everyday impacts on the most vulnerable people so maybe they should include everyone and not just marginalized and vulnerable people. Vice Chair Hansel said they should omit the part *“that meets their everyday needs”* as that is outside the scope of what they are doing. Councilor Clark suggested omitting the *“marginalized and vulnerable”* because it should include everyone. Chair Shedd said the marginalized and vulnerable populations have more access issues so she would be inclined to keep that part in there, but she agrees that maybe they can take out *“everyday needs.”*

Mr. Naadzenga stated that the vision should be ambitious so long as it remains within the confines of their scope. He suggested working towards a tall order and keeping a large vision that can expand out over the years. Vice Chair Hansel agreed that visions should be stretched. Mr. Naadzenga agreed that visions are meant to be that way. Ms. Baum said she is in agreement with removing *“everyday needs”* and leaving *“marginalized and vulnerable populations.”* Chair Shedd read aloud the clause of the Resolution that speaks to vulnerable populations and it explicitly states that the “margins” should be included.

Chair Shedd asked for thoughts on the statement, *“our energy system is resilient and able to adapt to changing climate and political conditions, as well as new and emerging technologies.”*

Ms. Baum said that is a great example of a very clear, yet stretching statement. Mr. Naadzenga and Councilor Clark agreed. Chair Shedd stated that it points to the resilience of the energy systems but not the capacity for community resilience. She used the example of microgrids as offering the police departments and hospital the resilience to still function even if the grid is down, so they need to come up with a phrase to add to that. Mr. Brehme noted that sentiment about resilience might fit better in the first bullet tying it into health and well-being.

Mr. Lamb said the word “political” should be omitted. Vice Chair Hansel said they could swap out the word “economic” for the word “political.” Ms. Baum said the term “ecological resilience” should also be added. Mr. Lamb stated that the way most people think about resilience is in the “community” sense and they are talking about an energy system. He suggested staying more aligned with “community resilience” and the ways in which the community can bounce back from extreme weather events. Mr. Dachowski suggested stating an “energy system that supports a resilient community” and other members agreed. Ms. Baum said they need to bolster the idea that “community resilience” is tied into ecological resilience, for example, carbon sequestration efforts, and that should be equally emphasized. Vice Chair Hansel said they can modify the first bullet to include that. Chair Shedd asked if the word *“resilience”*

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belongs in the first statement “*promote the health, well-being and resilience of the community.*” Members agreed.

Chair Shedd asked members to take a look at the values statements which relate to the process of developing the Plan, “*we value everyone’s input and will actively engage a wide range of stakeholders in the process of achieving and maintaining our vision for a clean and affordable renewable energy future.*”

Vice Chair Hansel said it sounds good. Chair Shedd said “*maintaining our vision*” is helpful in that it is not just a plan that is going to sit on the shelf, it will take work and updates. Chair Shedd continued reading the statement, “*We are not in this alone; we will reach out to peer communities to exchange ideas and inspiration.*”

Vice Chair Hansel suggested stating that “*peer communities*” include neighboring towns, other U.S. towns and Chair Shedd suggested adding Keene’s sister city in Germany.

Chair Shedd read “*as we work toward our goals, new ideas and technologies will emerge that may change our approach. The process for achieving our goals must be transparent, flexible and adaptive. In order to engage everyone, our communications and messaging must be accessible, and focus on the benefits to us as a community and as individual. All should take an active role in achieving our vision.*”

Chair Shedd said at the Retreat they talked about the messaging being accessible and discussed potential forms the Plan might take. She said they discussed somehow making this complicated Plan easy to grasp perhaps using graphics and creating a living document. Ms. Brunner said Mr. Naadzenga had suggested during the retreat that they try to avoid jargon and that is the idea she was trying to capture with that statement. Ms. Baum and Mr. Naadzenga stated that Ms. Brunner did a wonderful job of boiling down their flip chart ideas into well-crafted statements.

Chair Shedd stated that the first page of Ms. Brunner’s Retreat notes does a good job of showing what the document will actually look like in terms of accessibility and evidence-based messages. She said the bullet stating, “*The goals and action items should be based on facts and action items that will actually work*” should be the first bullet point. Councilor Clark asked if they are supposed to put these in order and Ms. Brunner said there is no specific order necessarily, instead these were her attempts to summarize what she heard. Mr. Brehme stated that many of the statements relate to how a reader will interact with a final Plan, whereas the evidence-based and inspirational items are two distinct items from those so maybe they should come to the top, and perhaps the other items can be collapsed into fewer numbers as they are discussing similar things. Chair Shedd agreed that those are talking about the presentation and format of the Plan. Ms. Baum said the bullets including “*a living document*” and “*easy to navigate*” are two sides of the same coin. Chair Shedd stated that maybe those two can be consolidated into fewer bullets.

Chair Shedd said she created a long list of potential stakeholders to include in Keene’s Sustainable Energy Plan. She said she categorized sectors that ECC may want to engage. Chair Shedd will send the document to the committee before the next meeting. Ms. Baum stated that

most of the stakeholders are larger commercial and industrial institutions in the region and she would like to see some Main Street businesses included. Chair Shedd said she was thinking of placing small businesses in a separate category.

Mr. Lamb stated that the list is great, but to also keep in mind the level of effort it will take to reach out to stakeholders individually. He said learning about their interest level in the whole subject area and creating a dialogue about their shared goals is absolutely critical, but they should also keep in mind what it will take to create effective communication with all of these entities as this is a very long list and some of these will take more effort than others. Community outreach must be strategically considered. He said, for example, the City has been doing one-on-one interviews with CEOs of major businesses and small businesses, and it is a long process as this is not their subject area, and he suggested keeping in mind what they can actually achieve. Ms. Baum stated that perhaps instead of focusing on the different sectors and names of institutions, they can focus instead on hubs and communication modalities, for example, organizations like the Chamber of Commerce, Keene Sentinel and other communication veins that touch many parts of the list.

Chair Shedd said Concord's Energy and Environment Committee is in the process of developing their 100% Renewable Plan and a few weeks ago they had the first of three stakeholder meetings presenting drafts of their evolving Plan. She said they had between 25-35 different stakeholders from different sectors that committed to coming to all three meetings and it was also open to the public. Chair Shedd said she can get more information on their process to share with the committee.

Chair Shedd announced that March 25-28 is NH Clean Energy Week and last year Keene hosted the initial event with a roundtable sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and Nature Conservancy. She said there is nothing planned for Keene for this year. Chair Shedd said it takes a lot of planning to have a public engagement session, but perhaps they can have an informal conversation opportunity to engage the public on the Plan which will include basic information and models from other communities. She asked if that is way too far outside the Planning world's process. Mr. Lamb said that it is a good opportunity to talk about subject matter but it is really a matter of publicizing and getting people to come out. Chair Shedd said it is only six weeks away and asked if the Communications group will be able to work on it. Ms. Baum and Mr. Brehme said they could commit to this. Chair Shedd said they still need to continue with questions on vision and values statements and also firm up some further plans for the March 25-28 week event.

Councilor Clark asked if they could keep track of the progress on the scope of work by checking off items that have been completed. Ms. Brunner said she created the chart before the Resolution was adopted, but she can certainly update it. Ms. Baum said a strong project management system on a dynamic platform that they could all access in real time, like a Google Sheet, would be a good idea, although they cannot make comments because it would be akin to a public meeting. Ms. Brunner said she can put it in the ECC folder. Mr. Lamb said this chart is not current, they need to work with the City Manager to understand what they can do and it is a work in progress. Mr. Lamb said they will be meeting with the Town Manager in Hanover to learn about their

scope of work is and who can do what within that scope. Chair Shedd thanked Mr. Lamb for going to Hanover to learn their process so that efforts are not duplicated.

5. Keene School District Update on Energy Efficiency Upgrades

Mr. Dooley introduced himself as the Director of Buildings and Grounds for the Keene School District. He said he has been with the District for 7.5 years and Director for 5.5 years. He said he is usually more organized, but he has been swamped with budget priorities so he does not have a savings sheet to show the committee today. He said as a whole, everything the School District does is based on financial savings; however, a lot of those savings come from energy savings. He said the largest ticket in his budget is staff, second to that is oil, electricity and propane. He said saving energy saves money, and that has been the primary inspiration for the School District.

Mr. Dooley stated that when the Jonathan Daniels School was shut down in 2014, they were able to convince the Facilities Committee and the Board to reinvest that money back into the elementary schools in Keene which were pretty dated. He said they invest about 2 million dollars a year, initially it was a 6 year plan but that has been stretched out to 8-9 years. Mr. Dooley said the project is based on HVAC and lighting, and it is essentially an energy savings project. He said the project involves taking out very inefficient steam heat oil burners and replacing them with high efficiency, condensing propane boilers which were the best option for the School District to have a cleaner and more affordable source of fuel. Mr. Dooley said there is an immense amount of work that goes into the underground source tanks for propane so it alleviates all the permitting required and associated DES inspections work. He said they are installing all new advanced LED lights, occupancy and photo sensors, which they have set at 70% and nobody has even noticed. Mr. Dooley stated that this is the reoccurring project each year which saves a lot of money.

Mr. Dooley stated that in between all of that there is a lot more that he does and any time they get the opportunity to save money in the other buildings they pursue it. He said right now they are switching to LED lights in their high use areas, for example, they just completed installing LEDs in the hallways of the high school over the fall. He said none of this has been planned but rather was done as opportunities arose. Mr. Dooley stated that Eversource had extra rebate money and so they jumped on the opportunity and spent \$58,000 and got \$38,000 back and saved even more money. He said they have big, medium, and everyday projects that are all focused on saving money and energy by replacing fixtures as they go to suit their tight budget.

Councilor Clark asked Mr. Dooley why every light in the high school hallways are always on. Mr. Dooley replied that the new lights have sensors, and in the high school, instead of every light being on, every fourth light is on and they also dim, which allows the police to drive around the buildings and check the halls. He said they also have an alarm system. Mr. Dooley said the District is also completing a project to install control systems for the heat, as most of the buildings did not have them, and now rooms are almost one hundred percent controllable. He said the control systems have demonstrated huge savings in fuel and electrical usage as well.

Vice Chair Hansel said the Sustainability Plan looks into the future 30 years or more, and because the School District just installed propane heaters, what decisions will they make about

the type of heating systems they will use in the future, will they be fossil fuel related or consider alternatives? Vice Chair Hansel also asked if the School District is looking at the envelopes of the buildings to improve the insulation factors. Mr. Dooley replied that the elementary school renovations are a complete energy overhaul; they have sealed the buildings, caulked the windows, reinsulated attics all in a multi-phase plan. He said the heat plan and heat source are done first as they are most expensive, and then they start tackling finishes like flooring, new lighting, paint and new ceiling tiles. He said all decisions were made with “green” in mind, for example, the floor product they chose is a no-finish, green-certified floor product. However, the quality of the air and space for students and for the staff that maintain the buildings are also important to the project. Mr. Dooley stated that their cleaning procedures have also changed, for example, instead of using chemical cleaning products they now clean with water only, except in the bathrooms where they use a bathroom product. He said the School District has changed a lot in the past 4-5 years in terms of accomplishing huge energy savings. Mr. Dooley said the Board has also been very supportive in allowing him to roll remaining Eversource rebate money into other projects on a continual basis. He stated that at one point lightning destroyed the control panel at the high school, so instead of simply replacing the control panel, they utilized Eversource’s on-bill payment system and replaced everything with LED lights.

Ms. Baum stated it sounds like the School District is doing amazing work. She asked Mr. Dooley if he has taken on any educational opportunities to share this information with students and parents. Mr. Dooley said he himself has very little time to do education; however, there is always a staff member or teacher that is very supportive of these changes and he is supportive of their interests in what he does. He said, for example, a teacher at Fuller wanted to bring their recycling program to the next level and he helped create a revamped recycling program which involves the student body as well. He said one of the Science teachers at the high school observed them installing the LED lights and used that as a source of inspiration for an energy unit for her students.

Mr. Dachowski asked Mr. Dooley if he experiences pushback when these changes occur. Mr. Dooley replied in the affirmative, noting that no one likes change and he has gotten pushback from his own staff. He said scheduling with contractors is difficult as they prefer day time work hours, and he gets pushback from the schools about the contractors doing work during the day. Mr. Dachowski asked whether, once a change has been implemented, people generally accept them. Mr. Dooley replied that the teachers actually like the idea of being able to control and dim the lights, as it is perhaps calming for students and he has gotten very few complaints.

Councilor Clark asked if the School District has any plans for implementing alternative energy, like solar. Mr. Dooley said he currently sits on the City’s Joint Purchasing Committee, and they often talk about coming together with other groups to pursue energy alternatives. He said he can get a better rate through the School District; however, they have not yet come together on electricity, oil and propane alternatives, as the City uses different ways of purchasing energy. Vice Chair Hansel stated that it is important that they are even having these types of discussions.

Councilor Clark asked Mr. Dooley about the potential for rooftop solar at the high school. Mr. Dooley said they talk about it but the idea is not quite as accepted on the Board and Administrative levels right now mainly because there is pushback about putting anything on the

buildings. He said the School District owns over 106 acres in Keene, but most of it is comprised of sports fields and school buildings, so they are struggling to find any major, impactful way to place solar installations. He said lately he has been receiving many requests from solar companies. Vice Chair Hansel said the reason is because there are now loan funds available now for nonprofit organizations like schools. Mr. Dooley said as soon as they can demonstrate substantial financial savings for solar installations for the School District that is when the idea would be more likely to be accepted by the people who make those decisions. Mr. Lamb said that his department would be happy to share their experiences about the City's solar installation at 350 Marlborough Street. Mr. Dooley said that would be great.

Chair Shedd stated that there are only about 20 schools in New Hampshire with solar installations, and 250 school buildings and they are not solely rooftop installations, for example, UMass Amherst is installing solar in parking lots which can provide shading, snow shelter, EV charging potential and electricity generation. Chair Shedd told Mr. Dooley it is very inspiring to hear what the District has done with the schools, and it is a huge success story that they should find a way to share with the public. She said finding the communications medium to share with residents about the savings in energy efficiency and how rapid the payback can be are one of ECC's early priorities. Vice Chair Hansel asked if the Monadnock Energy Hub has a way of publicizing the School District's work. Chair Shedd said the Clean Energy Team has a website where they share stories and they might be willing to place a story on that platform and then duplicate it across multiple websites. She thanked Mr. Dooley for his presentation to ECC.

Councilor Clark said he spoke to Mr. Bouchard (Assistant County Administrator) and he expressed interest in speaking with ECC if invited. Chair Shedd said in terms of transportation, some of the VW diesel settlement money is for electrifying fleets and school buses are specifically mentioned, however, all buses in NH are contracted so that could be difficult. Mr. Dooley agreed that the entire school bus fleet is contracted in the School District as well as all the vehicles in his department. Chair Shedd said the City is using 20% biodiesel for its diesel vehicles. Mr. Dooley said the School District has diesel tractors but they use gas vehicles. Ms. Gaunt shared that Keene State College uses biodiesel for their vehicles and Chair Shedd said there may be another opportunity for shared savings between the College and the School District.

6. Energy-Related Legislative Updates

a. HB 365, "Relative to net energy metering limits for customer generators"

Chair Shedd stated that the text of the bill for HB 365 is included in the packet. She said that last year a similar bill had bipartisan support to increase the net metering cap for individual projects from 1 to 5 megawatts, and then the governor vetoed it. It came back in the fall of 2018 for a veto override vote; however, there were not enough votes to override the veto at that time. She said the bill is back again. Ms. Brunner stated that she reached out to Clean Energy NH to see if they had any summaries or talking points that relate to these bills and she received some information that she will share with the committee.

Chair Shedd said this bill was not specifically commented on by the City last year because they had already asked the City to support maintaining the renewable portfolio standard and RGGI funding, and this bill came to their attention a little bit later when it was too late to get through

City channels. However, this bill will clearly impact what Keene can do. For example, the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) is the largest electricity user in the county. Ms. Brunner noted the WWTP has already done a significant amount of work to reduce their energy usage, but even so would probably need a larger system than 1 megawatt. Chair Shedd said there has been discussion off and on about the possibility of installing a solar system to offset the WWTP electrical usage, which would probably need to be bigger than 1 megawatt, but the City could not do that with the current 1 megawatt limit. She said raising the cap to 5 megawatts would directly impact what the City can do, much less what residents and businesses can do. She asked the committee if the group is in favor of asking City Council to have the City submit comment to the legislature and the Governor. She asked Ms. Brunner to summarize the talking points from Clean Energy New Hampshire.

Ms. Brunner said the talking points from Clean Energy NH state that the bill would do the following:

- Raise project cap for net-metered projects from 1 megawatt to 5 megawatts*
- Require utilities to account for net-metered power in such a way that maximizes rate payer savings and minimizes rate-payer costs.*
- Would allow large energy users like municipalities, schools and business to invest in renewable energy projects that are properly sized for their needs (which gets to the point that Chair Shedd made about the WWTP, which would need a system that is larger than 1 MW)*

Ms. Brunner noted that the talking points also include some general information about the overall benefits of renewable energy to the state, such as creating renewable energy jobs, reducing fossil fuel use from out of state and keeping energy dollars in the state. Ms. Brunner said she would be happy to share the talking points with the committee if people are interested.

Vice Chair Hansel asked if this bill would affect group-net metering. Ms. Brunner said there is a bill that would affect group-net metering, which is the low-income community solar bill. Vice Chair Hansel asked if they put in a facility that is bigger than they needed themselves, could the City then group-net meter that extra energy. Mr. Lamb said there have been several concepts developed for the airport and one of them is a small energy micro-grid that the City would then own and operate, however, there are some limitations because they would become a power generator which puts them in a new class. However, he said, it is likely that if there would be more energy produced in the WWTP, they could potentially take advantage of group net metering. Mr. Lamb said anytime they can use energy behind the meter it is a better deal financially than putting it back into the grid.

Ms. Brunner said SB 165 is a bill that would modify group net metering in a couple of ways. First, it will allow for members of a group-net metered system to receive on-bill crediting for their share of the net-metered generation. She believes that currently, the utility will send a check to the head of the group net-metered system and then that entity has to distribute the money. The current proposal is to change this to on bill crediting, which makes it a simpler process. It includes a 3% per kilowatt per hour adder for low income, community solar projects and it requires that there are three new moderate or low income community solar projects to be added to each utility service area per year beginning in 2020.

Chair Shedd said the SB 165 group net-metering bill is different than the energy cap bill (HB 365) and perhaps they should pay attention to that right now. She asked members again if they want to ask Council to support the bill. Ms. Baum and Councilor Clark said they are in favor of asking City Council to support the bill. Councilor Clark noted that the City had weighed in on the statewide cap on net metering in the past. Chair Shedd clarified that this bill is to raise the cap for individual projects; the previous bill that the City commented on was for a cap on all projects throughout the state. This bill would allow larger institutions, such as schools, municipalities, and other large electric users, to install systems that are the proper size.

Councilor Clark reviewed several process options and asked about the best way to make this request. Mr. Lamb said he thinks it is important for ECC to take a vote and make a recommendation for the Mayor or City Council to draft a letter. He said if the committee makes a vote today, it may be referred to either the PLD or MSFI committee and at that point public input will be solicited. ECC members could provide input at this point in the process which would allow City Council to hear their story. The PLD/MSFI will make their recommendation and then it will go back to Full Council, possibly by March 5th. Chair Shedd this is a reasonable timing for the process, because bills crossover from the senate to the house and vice versa in April.

Ms. Baum motioned that ECC make a recommendation to City Council to draft a letter to the legislature stating they support HB 365 “Relative to net energy metering limits for customer generators”, Councilor Clark seconded and motion passed unanimously.

b. Other energy-related bills

Chair Shedd said HB 562 updates the State existing building, plumbing and mechanical energy and conservation energy codes from their 2009 versions to 2015 versions. She said there are a couple of bills coming from the House to the Senate but this is the most straightforward one. Chair Shedd said she did talk to Mr. Kopczynski about this bill and asked whether he and other staff members went to Concord to support this bill. Ms. Brunner said they did not provide any testimony on this bill yet; they are watching to see what amendments might get added when it comes out of committee.

Chair Shedd said a good case study which demonstrates why an updated building and energy code is important is the two off campus housing units on Ralston Street, which were constructed recently and are relatively new buildings. When she passed by the other day, the north-facing roofs of both buildings were significantly melted out, which indicates they do not have good insulation. She said the 2015 code is more stringent than the 2009 code. She thinks there is pushback from the building contractor sector on this bill, perhaps because it is more stringent and expensive. Chair Shedd suggested the committee have Mr. Kopczynski come to a future meeting to talk about the bill and its impacts. Vice Chair Hansel said they should monitor the bill for now. He unsure how much of this is state-mandated versus under local control. Ms. Brunner said the City could opt to adopt a more stringent code than the state, but the City of Keene has not done that. However, the SEED district offers incentives to meet a higher building code. Mr. Lamb said building codes are pretty sophisticated and Mr. Kopczynski is as well-trained an expert in building codes as anyone in the State and it is a good subject area to learn more about, remembering that building codes will mostly affect new buildings. He said it does affect the existing building codes, but there are all sorts of ways to work around it for existing buildings

and it would be good to understand the effects that building codes have on energy. Mr. Lamb said they can put that into the context of the thermal goals for the Plan. Of the three goal areas – heating, electricity, and transportation – heating is almost difficult to address as transportation. In order to reach the 100% renewable energy goals, they will need to fully understand the building codes and the role they play with regards to thermal energy. Vice Chair Hansel agreed that should be a part of a bigger discussion.

Ms. Baum said she agrees that would it be great to have Mr. Kopczynski in to talk about that, however, she just does not know if now is the time to dive into the details of the building and energy code. Chair Shedd agreed with Ms. Baum, and noted that members should have access to NH Clean Energy links to the various energy-related bills, and encouraged committee members to pay attention to the legislative updates.

Mr. Lamb said Councilor Hansel would like ECC to take a look at SB 165 and suggested that the committee add it to the agenda for next month.

7. Committee meeting schedule

Chair Shedd stated they spoke at the Retreat about changing meeting times and/or having additional meetings. Ms. Baum clarified that the committee talked about both the length and frequency of the meetings as well as the time that the committee meets. Her proposal was to shorten the regular monthly meeting to one hour and add a longer, quarterly meeting to focus solely on the Energy Plan to move things forward. Ms. Brunner said she could put this topic earlier in the agenda for the next month to give the committee more time to discuss that topic.

8. Other Business

Chair Shedd handed out a sheet with upcoming events. Mr. Lamb shared that Mr. Ward, member of the public, wrote about the goals with respect to renewable energy and wind power and he would like to address the committee at some point in time. He said perhaps they can take into consideration whether or not they want to agendize a presentation from Mr. Ward at a future meeting. Chair Shedd said the 2004 action plan called for assessing Keene's wind potential and that has not been done yet and thanked Mr. Ward for bringing that back to the committee's attention. Mr. Ward replied that he would like to be added to the agenda for next month and Chair Shedd agreed.

9. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Chair Shedd adjourned the meeting at 9:37 am.

Respectfully submitted by,
Ayshah Kassamali-Fox, Minute-Taker

Reviewed and edited by Mari Brunner, Acting Planner