

City of Keene
New Hampshire

ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

8:00 AM

**Council Chambers,
City Hall**

Members Present:

Zach Luse, Chair
Paul Roth, Vice Chair
Councilor Raleigh Ormerod
Councilor Bryan Lake
Peter Hansel
Jake Pipp
Beth Campbell
Clair Oursler
Jude Nuru (arrived 8:05 AM)
Lisa Maxfield, Alternate
Kenneth Swymer, Alternate
Rowland Russell, Alternate
Charles Redfern, Alternate (arrived 8:02 AM)

Staff Present:

Mari Brunner, Senior Planner

Members Not Present:

Diana Duffy

1) Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Luse called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM and invited Dr. Rowland Russell and Ms. Lisa Maxfield to participate as voting members.

2) Approval of Minutes

Chair Luse invited any discussion of the minutes. With no discussion, Chair Luse requested a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Bryan Lake moved to approve the minute of the prior meeting with a second from Mr. Jake Pipp. With unanimous approval, the minutes from last meeting were approved. Mr. Charles Redfern joined the meeting.

3) ECC Work Group Report Outs

A) Community Solar

No update.

B) Grants, Fundraising, and Partnerships

Ms. Beth Campbell shared that they had a couple of positive interviews with other energy and climate committee type managers from other jurisdictions. She spoke with Tad in Lebanon and with the woman who's hiring for the Peterborough position. Ms. Campbell thinks that leaning on the resources of those other communities, who have already sourced the funding and approval through City Council, will be an excellent strategy.

In particular, she recommended to Mari and Zach to see if Tad could be a guest speaker on this committee. He had done significant financial planning regarding what his position will bring in terms of savings to the city of Lebanon. He estimates saving the city approximately \$14 million through energy efficiency upgrades to the buildings because his position is also paired with the facilities director coordinator. Mr. Jude Nuru joined the meeting.

C) Education and Outreach

Chair Luse said that the update for Education and Outreach will be covered under the next agenda item.

4) Keene Energy Week

Chair Luse shared that Clean Energy Week has been set for October 21st through the 28th. There are plans to do an Energy Fair on Railroad Square on the 28th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. They will be looking for volunteers for that day. Chair Luse plans to have someone reach out to the car dealers.

They are requesting to spend up to \$350 to pay for reserving parking spots and any promotional materials.

Councilor Bryan Lake asked if that was within their budget and whether there were funds around. Chair Luse and Ms. Mari Brunner confirmed that there were available funds.

Mr. Paul Roth made a motion to propose spending \$350 of the budget on Keene Energy Week, which Mr. Clair Oursler seconded. With unanimous approval, the motion was approved.

5) Community Power Program Update

Ms. Brunner shared that there was not much to report out on Community Power. She does not have a report for numbers but believes that is because they will be doing another sweep in mid-September. She explained that anyone who has moved into Keene or moved from one location to another in Keene will go through the whole enrollment process. They will receive the same letter that was sent during the initial round informing them that the program is coming and that they will be automatically enrolled within the next month or so. It will have instructions on how to opt out and how to go online to view the other available options.

She previously shared a flyer with the education group for new residents of Keene that explained the process of joining for those who are proactive and interested in joining earlier. She is hopeful that they will be getting another round of calls and interest from the public as these letters are sent and received. She noted that they have also been contacted by the Clean Energy team who are organizing the climate cafes as one of them will be on community power. She believed they were still working to set a date but it sounded like it will be mid-November. She anticipates this to be a good outreach opportunity.

Chair Luse shared that he spoke with the Chamber, and they have a packet that they send out to new residents. They were willing to include the flyer Ms. Brunner shared. He believed that after Energy Week is over, the education and outreach committee plan to reach out to realtors in the area to see if they could get any of them to help with distributing them.

6) Fall Retreat

Chair Luse reminded the Committee that the fall retreat will be October 24th, 3:00 PM to 6:00PM at Stonewall Farm during Keene Energy Week. He shared that they have Sam Evans Brown from Clean Energy New Hampshire to come and speak at the beginning of the retreat and anticipates it to be a positive and inspirational discussion.

7) Committee Membership

Ms. Brunner shared that one committee member on their second term has graciously stayed on the committee despite their term ending. She believed they have another member that will be timing out and a few who have their first term coming up. She noted that if members are one of those people, they will be reaching out to them individually.

If their first term is coming up this year and they are interested in continuing, they will automatically be put on the list to be nominated and confirmed in January. If they are wishing to bow out, they can just let Ms. Brunner or Chair Luse know, and they would not be placed for nomination for a second term.

At current time, there are two slots open for alternate members. In the coming year, she anticipates at least two, maybe three regular spots opening and noted that there was an interested member in the audience.

Chair Luse invited Mr. Mike Winograd up to speak and introduce himself.

Mr. Winograd shared that he has a background in law enforcement and criminal justice. He was on the United Nations Environment Program and Habitat based in Kenya as a deputy permanent representative and is also running for city council in the city of Keene.

Mr. Winograd said he loved it here in Keene. He previously lived in another state. He has spent a good portion of his life, 26 years, in the Foreign Service as a CIA Chief of Station operative. He shared that he is glad to be here and desires to continue his work as a public servant and is looking forward to joining this committee. He thanked the committee for their time and asked if anyone had any questions.

Chair Luse thanked Mr. Winograd.

Ms. Beth Campbell shared that she and her partner are unexpectedly moving out of town this fall. She will be drafting a letter of resignation but hopes that the committee will fill her spot with someone who has the capacity to really be able to contribute to this important mission and noted that she will miss everyone. She said serving on the committee with everyone has been a fantastic experience.

8) Monadnock Clean Energy Fair

Monadnock Clean Energy Fair is on September 30th in Peterborough at the Community Center from 10AM to 2PM. Chair Luse will try to get some flyers to Carolyn this week.

Councilor Ormerod said he will be resuming his radio show on November 18th and this will provide an additional opportunity for PR.

Mr. Clair Oursler asked if there were people planning to carpool over to the Monadnock Energy Fair.

9) New Business

No items of new business were raised at the meeting.

10) Next Meeting:

Chair Luse said that the next meeting will be Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at 8:00 AM.

11) Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Luse adjourned the meeting at 8:17 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Amanda Trask, Minute Taker

Reviewed and edited by,
Mari Brunner, Senior Planner