

TOWN OF BEDFORD
May 3, 2018
ENERGY COMMISSION MINUTES

A meeting of the Bedford Energy Commission was held on Thursday, May 3, 2018 at the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, NH. Present were: Jeff Kerr (Chair), Andrew Gillis (Vice Chair), Alexander Joy, Bing Lu, William Coder, Bill Foote (School Board Liaison), Chris Bandazian (Town Council Liaison), and Catherine Rombeau (Town Council Liaison Alternate). Shayna Potvin and John Russell were absent.

Mr. Kerr opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Mr. Kerr wanted to know about compliance with the Right-To-Know law, and emails/discussions between Commission members.

Mr. Kerr gave his outline of how he would like the meeting to run such as members presenting status updates as opposed to detailed information. This would help things to be more productive.

III. Approval of Minutes

- a. December and January minutes.

MOTION by Mr. Joy to approve the December and January minutes. Seconded by Mr. Foote. Vote taken – All in favor.

IV. Reports of Members and Committees

- a. Legislative update – Councilor Bandazian

- Group net metering cap has been increased from 1% - 5%.
- The increase for renewable energy funds from \$2 million to \$5 million for schools and municipalities died.

- b. School projects – Bill Foote

- School is still at the RFQ phase. Nothing really starts until the new budget kicks in on June 30th.
- He believes they've selected Con Edison. They had five qualified bidders.

V. Special Orders – None.

VI. Old Business

- a. Green Resident Award – Shana Potvin

Mr. Kerr wanted to know if they wanted to continue pursuing this award. Shana had created a form. There was some discussion on whether they were going to make it an application or a competition. Mr. Kerr suggested that since Ms. Potvin wasn't there that they defer the discussion to next meeting.

b. Green Business Award –

Mr. Coder thought the survey looked almost complete when he checked it today. Councilor Bandazian thought they needed to promote it. They've never had anyone apply on their own behalf; they've always reached out to the people they've given it to. Mr. Joy mentioned the website, Facebook page, Twitter account, and thought that if they can get those up and running and updated more frequently, it would give them a channel to start soliciting these things and getting them out there. He volunteered to advertise the award on the Facebook page, website and Twitter to promote them and encourage businesses to participate. Mr. Lu stated that if nobody is checking the Facebook page, then it would be useless and wanted to know if they could use the School website. Mr. Foote didn't think it worked like that. Mr. Kerr thought the more times the Commission members like and share stuff on that, it will spread to their network of friends and so on.

c. Website updates – Chris Bandazian

Mr. Kerr stated that the website needed to be updated to include the two new members.

Mr. Coder mentioned that he had sent out an email with suggestions on possible updates for the website. One of the suggestions was listing the previous winners of the Green Business Award.

d. Landfill Solar – Jeff Kerr

Mr. Kerr stated that he had sent out an edit of a previous RFP and didn't know what the next step was. He didn't know if the Town Council needed to look at it. Councilor Bandazian thought it would be useful to have a financial model, but until they bang the gavel at the Legislature he didn't know they would be able to tell the Council what the financial impact would be. Mr. Gillis thought that it would have to be group net metered and there was discussion among the Commission.

Mr. Kerr wanted to know if there were any grants they could look for to offset some of the cost. Councilor Bandazian mentioned Renewable Energy Fund grants. Mr. Foote wanted to know if there was anything left in the pot. Councilor Bandazian mentioned that there is the \$2 million that is allocated to municipalities and school districts. Mr. Gillis would take the calculations, get the information they have and know now and whatever variables they have and make it available. Mr. Kerr thought they should stay current to what's happening in the Legislature and find out if there is anything that makes that number go up or down. When the Legislative session is over, they will address it and as a Commission decide whether they want to go forward with it. Mr. Gillis explained the spreadsheet he did and would come up with some rough numbers.

e. New Solar Up campaign

Councilor Bandazian stated that the first step was polling the people on the spreadsheet who had installations. They would use those stories to market another Solar Up campaign and do it better. The Commission had a discussion about some of the changes since the last one.

f. Grants for PV display

Councilor Bandazian stated that they are under review until June. There is no deadline for the commitment of funds, but they said they were going to do them in June.

- g. Recycling bins at town pool/town fields/schools

Counselor Bandazian has put in a request with no response as of yet.

- h. Transfer station - Lex Joy and Catherine Rombeau

Councilor Rombeau has worked on the Spring Cleaning article, but didn't have a draft to circulate. She explained her outline of how she was approaching it. Mr. Kerr thought it was important to get this information out soon and then maybe follow up with different stuff.

The Commission discussed the recycling of computers, monitors and TVs at the Transfer Station. Councilor Rombeau mentioned how she and Councilor Greazzo were meeting with Jeff Foote to discuss the Transfer Station and recycling next Wednesday.

Mr. Foote will be coming to the next Energy Commission meeting.

- i. Bedford 2020 Master Plan update Representative

Councilor Bandazian stated that they are still in the process of selecting a consultant. There is a second day of interviews tomorrow then the selection committee will make a recommendation. He mentioned a webinar on May 11th at 12:00pm, which will have Claremont and Dover showcasing their master plan experiences. He will forward it to the Commission members.

Councilor Bandazian thought one or two volunteers from the Energy Commission would be good to have. Right now, it's a stand-alone chapter, but they don't know what the new one is going to look like. It sort of weaves through all of the chapters. They could pick volunteers at their May 24th meeting.

Mr. Coder wanted to know the mission of the Energy Commission and discussed with the Commission their role, the website, and the Master Plan.

VII. New business

- a. Commission Roles – Lex Joy

Mr. Joy put together a spreadsheet of things that can be divvied up among the Commission. He broke it up among organization for the Commission itself. It includes putting together minutes, drafting schedules, researching items of interest (new legislation, events), development (drafting grant proposals, finding grants), spreading word about the awards they are trying to put together), outreach (web, social media, etc.), government connection's (Town Council and School). Mr. Joy suggested that Commission members sign up for one of the items on the spreadsheet. He also added Portfolio Manager that Councilor Bandazian does.

- b. VW settlement

Mr. Kerr stated that part of the settlement was grants to replace diesel with electric vehicles, specifically school busses being electric and not diesel. The school busses are 3rd party contracted, but they could let the contracted party know that they are interested. Mr. Foote didn't know if it would be a benefit to the contracted party. Councilor Rombeau brought up Town trucks and vehicles if they were eligible. Mr. Kerr stated that the settlement says school busses, but the Town doesn't own the

school busses, but doesn't mention Town vehicles, which they do own. Mr. Coder mentioned that there were different categories of diesel vehicles covered by the settlement. He thought maybe some plows or other equipment that the Town owns may be eligible.

Mr. Kerr thought there was a public comment period on the 10th at the City Hall in Manchester. Mr. Coder mentioned that if they don't go to the public comment on the 10th, comments can be submitted up until June 5th. He could send the link around. Mr. Kerr thought he may go to the public comment period on May 10th, 1:30 - 3:30, 1 City Hall Plaza, Manchester. The Commission had a lot of discussion on this agenda item.

- c. Study of ways to reduce demand and/or overall charge of Town sports field lighting

Mr. Kerr would like to find a better solution than standard lighting. He would like someone to do a lifecycle analysis. They will bring it up with Jeff Foote at the next meeting.

- c. Earth day discussion

Mr. Kerr wanted to know if they wanted to do something for next year. Councilor Rombeau mentioned possibly partnering with the Conservation Commission. Different thoughts were discussed.

- e. Town reports for history of BEC

Mr. Kerr posted them on the google group for Commission members to review.

- f. Safety complex Trane Energy Management system – No update

There was some discussion by the Commission.

VIII. Reminders: Next upcoming meeting is May 24

IX. Adjournment

MOTION by Councilor Rombeau to adjourn at 8:00 PM. Seconded by Mr. Joy.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kayla Chase