

TOWN OF BEDFORD
February 22, 2018
ENERGY COMMISSION MINUTES

A meeting of the Bedford Energy Commission was held on Thursday, February 22, 2018 at the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, NH. Present were: Shayna Potvin (Chair), John Russell, Jeff Kerr, Chris Bandazian (Town Council Liaison), and Catherine Rombeau (Town Council Liaison Alternate). Absent: Lex Joy, Andrew Gillis, and Kevin Flynn.

Bill Foote (School Board Liaison) was participating via telephone.

Ms. Potvin opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. She introduced two guests: Charlie Niebling (Innovative Natural Resources Solutions) and Dana Nute (Resilient Buildings Group).

A. Legislation Update:

HB 114: Passed by three vote majority so it is over with the Science, Technology and Energy Committee now. This sets the goal for renewable energy at the current level rather than 15% it is now set at 6%. It also stops the annual increases in that percentage as well. Counselor Bandazian stated a consequence to this bill is it reduces funding available for school and municipal projects among others. Mr. Kerr asked what the bill is attempting to accomplish to which counselor Bandazian replied, not to impose renewables on the market and let market forces determine market prices. If you think that increasing supply and diversity the supply in the long run will lower prices this goes in the opposite direction.

SB 447: Ms. Potvin is unsure if this will be voted on this week.

SB 446: To raise the net metering project cap from 1 to 5 megawatts. This was voted on February 20th no update on outcome.

SB 517: Create and electric vehicle charging infrastructure study commission. Scheduled to be voted on today by the full senate and is recommended to pass.

Energy storage bill: Killed

HB 1541: If you have an electric vehicle or hybrid you are not paying a gas tax because you are using less gas, and so you are not paying to maintain roads. So HB1541 would create a special tax for people with those vehicles.

HB 1763FN: This bill is similar to the prior bill HB 1541. Road usage fee high efficiency or electric vehicles. Intent is to have vehicles that do not pay for gasoline make a fair contribution to the highway fund. So this passed the full house on February 8th and we will have a house finance division two work session on February 20th.

HB 1338: Study barriers to micro grids in NH. Bill was killed.

HB 1230: Study impact on NH of a national carbon price. Bill was killed.

HB 1563: Municipal solar taxation help. Moved to municipal county government committee.

SB 443: Relative to jurisdiction of county's concerning retail electric supply. This would give municipalities' greater power to assess competitive retail electricity markets.

SB 449: Sight Evaluation Committee this would change the SEC membership from its current form to be made up by the chairmen of the people you see here, plus nine members of the public plus another SEC. It is very unlikely this bill will pass.

HB 559: Sending more RGGI proceeds to energy efficiency. In another surprising move in NH the house finance committee voted yesterday to amend 559 so that all RGGI proceeds will go to energy efficiency not just the residential customers proceeds. So that was brought to the full house finance committee for an executive session on February 21st.

B. School Projects:

a. Warrant articles coming up for the March 13th vote.

i. To support Energy Feasibility study in the schools which would cover all six schools.

Charlie Niebling (Innovative Natural Resources Solutions) and Dana Nute (Resilient Buildings Group) were hired by SAU25 to do a high level analysis. Dick Henry also worked on the project. Mr. Niebling and Mr. Nute gave an overview of the analysis.

- Evaluate the six schools for an in-depth focus on the most cost effective measures that can be considered.
 - i. Objective – to reduce operating and energy costs, lower long term maintenance costs, and improve the performance of the buildings.

Mr. Neibling and Mr. Nute went through some slides showing the following:

- Ten year average BSD buildings' energy cost - \$872,941/year
 - This uses a 10-year avg. price for:
 - Oil at \$2.60/Gallon
 - Natural gas at \$1.12/therm
 - Electric at \$0.14/kWh
- Summary of Building Energy by Total Energy Cost per Building
 - Riddle Brook School is the least efficient building.
 - The high school, McKelvie, and Memorial School are the most efficient.
- Historical Energy Costs, Oil vs. Natural Gas
- School District Energy Costs: 62% Electric & 38% Heat – for Electric:
 - Mechanical Equipment – 27%
 - Lighting – 19%
 - Plug Loads – 16%
- How to Evaluate Energy Improvements
 - Conservations
 - Reduce energy loads wherever possible
 - Efficiency
 - Improve energy usage of what remains
 - Renewable Energy
 - Generate electricity on site with PV

- Which measures make the most sense?
 - Lighting
 - Recommissioning Building Controls
 - Mechanicals – Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditions & Controls (HVAC)
 - Insulate Building Envelopes
 - Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP)
 - Reduce Electric Demand Charges
 - Solar Photovoltaic Arrays (PV) – High School and McKelvie would work best
- Energy Measures for each school with greatest presumed return on investment
 - Replace lights with LED's, daylight harvesting and occupancy sensors at all buildings (underway)
 - Retro Commission controls at all buildings
 - HVAC – demand control ventilation, variable speed drives and right sizing equipment – Riddle Brook and possible other buildings
 - Address electric demand charges at SAU and BMS/RAL
 - Improve shell at Riddle Brook, McKelvie & Peter Woodbury
 - ASHP for Riddle Brook, McKelvie, and Peter Woodbury
- Estimated Feasibility Study Cost – not to exceed \$93,000
- Timeline of Completion of Study
 - Issue RFP for energy consultants - February, 2018
 - Vote on Article 2 at BSD Annual Meeting - March 13, 2018
 - Contract with qualified consultants - After March 13, 2018
 - Draft report for Bedford School Board - September, 2018
 - Final report and recommendations to BSB - October, 2018
 - Consideration of action for 2019 BSD annual mtg. - December, 2018
- Recent examples of NH School energy savings

There was a lot of discussion on the information that was presented.

Ms. Potvin suggested they expound on the fact sheet she did and show the long-term savings. Councilor Rombeau wanted to know if they could incorporate it into a letter to the editor or on social media. Ms. Potvin suggested that they should all write up what they have taken from the meeting and she would put it together.

ii. Compostable trays in schools

Ms. Potvin stated that for the compostable trays there is a user fee. Councilor Rombeau explained that the start-up cost would be paid off by the user fee.

Ms. Potvin suggested that they work on a 1-page flyer on both of the school warrant articles. It would have bullet points that could be easily digested.

C. 2018 Focus Areas:

- 1. Green Resident Award – GDS New Hampshire Home Energy Score Pilot:** No update

2. Website updates:

Councilor Bandazian mentioned that a Recycling header was added and items were uploaded. Continue to send him things and he'll make sure they are uploaded.

Ms. Potvin mentioned a new business at 35 Back River Road taking old toys and things that the Transfer Station won't take. They will make other things out of them.

3. Solar:

- A. Collect stories form our past SolarUp campaign – come up w/ questions for the survey to develop new SolarUp campaign – No update**
- B. Grants for PV display @ Transfer Station – NHCF express grant deadline for 2018 applications is March 30, 2018**

Counselor Bandazian has submitted the grant and the decision will take about six weeks.

- C. Encore, VT solar installer – any word from them – No update**
- D. Renewed RFP for solar projects – Wait until end of June**

4. Green Business Award:

- A. Survey to businesses in Town to find out what green measures they take. Come up with questions. Plastic bags, bulk products, recycling, energy conservation, take-out packaging, waste, etc. – No update**

5. Recycling bins at town pool/town fields/schools – The high school has bins.

6. Portfolio Manager

A. Recycling

Councilor Bandazian gave an update on single stream recycling. The market continues to fluctuate and has gotten a little bit more favorable.

B. Municipal Solid Waste

Councilor Bandazian gave an update on the municipal solid waste. He talked about going out to bid when it's time to renew the contract. Jeff Kerr talked about recycling and the plastic bags and thought there had to be a better way of doing things. The Commission discussed composting, plastic bags, recycling and municipal solid waste contract.

7. LED street lights

Ms. Potvin stated that the majority of all lights have been changed over except for ones on State roads. The payback will be two years.

D. 2020 Master Plan Update:

Councilor Bandazian thought that someone from the Energy Commission should be on the Master Plan Steering Committee. Councilor Rombeau thought they should wait until March when the Election is over and appointments are made.

E. New Business:

Councilor Bandazian mentioned Energy Week events the week of March 12th – 15th.

F. Old Business: None

G. Reminders:

1. Next meeting is March 22nd.

H. Adjournment:

Ms. Potvin adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Kayla Chase