

**TOWN OF BEDFORD**  
**March 22, 2018**  
**ENERGY COMMISSION MINUTES**

A meeting of the Bedford Energy Commission was held on Thursday, March 22, 2018 at the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, NH. Present were: Shayna Potvin (Chair), Andrew Gillis (Vice Chair), Jeff Kerr, John Russell, Alexander Joy, Kevin Flynn, Bing Lu, William Coder, Bill Foote (School Board Liaison), Chris Bandazian (Town Council Liaison), and Catherine Rombeau (Town Council Liaison Alternate)

Ms. Potvin opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

**A. Welcome new members:**

Ms. Potvin welcomed new members Bing Lu and Bill Coder.

Bing Lu stated that he'd been living in Bedford for about 4½ years. His job is related to electrical energy, he's got a good background on that and the work he does is on the saving energy part, so he thought it was a good fit. He works at Texas Instruments.

Bill Coder stated that he has a background in electrical engineering. He's lived in Bedford for about 4½ years. He has a strong interest in sustainable energy.

**B. Legislative Updates:**

SB446: Raises the net metering cap from 1 megawatt to 5 megawatts. There is a public hearing on 3/28/2018 at 10:00am in Concord, Room 304. This would have the PUC set the rate for what those systems would receive for any kilowatt hour that they net export to the grid. It passed in the Senate, but there are some skeptical House representatives. They need people to testify. SB446 would open opportunities for many municipalities to generate their own renewable energy and lower the energy bills to save money for tax payers. Allowing the PUC to set the rate would ensure a fair rate for all participants. Well sited projects under this will capture savings on regional and local transmission costs. In NH, these costs have been growing dramatically and lowering them will help lower rates. Many large businesses like manufacturers use millions of kilowatt hours per year and have million plus dollar electric bills. SB446 will allow for right sizing projects that can better cover the company's needs and help businesses control and lower their bills. SB446 would not result in any cost shifting. Raising the project cap size for 1 to 5 megawatts was a key recommendation in the final legislative report from the study commission investigating our electric system and how to lower costs. Mr. Foote will testify this bill on 3/28/18 during the public hearing.

Ms. Potvin noted that on 3/19/18, Governor Sununu confirmed funding for EV charging infrastructure. Councilor Bandazian mentioned that because of the VW settlement, the State is getting around \$31 million and Gov. Sununu had said \$4 million of that would be spent on EV charging stations and building that infrastructure.

**C. School Projects:**

Ms. Potvin stated that both school board projects have passed. The School budget starts 7/1/18, so they will start after that. RFP's will be going out for the Feasibility Study. Counselor Bandazian mentioned that there was a bill to increase the \$2 million that's allocated to municipalities and schools to \$5 million from the renewable energy fund. It's administered from the PUC. He thought the grant deadline would be impossible to meet in 2018, but they could get ready for 2019. Mr. Foote stated that they would have to put together a capital plan for all of the improvements they need to make. Councilor Bandazian mentioned that Eversource had building envelope improvement money. Mr. Foote was aware of it, but envelope money could be complicated.

Ms. Potvin mentioned that on March 30<sup>th</sup>, the NH SEA is doing a legislative energy policy update webinar talking about all of the energy related bills.

#### **D. 2018 Focus Areas:**

##### **1. Green Resident Award – GDS New Hampshire Home Energy Score Pilot**

Ms. Potvin talked about the Green Business survey that she did and showed it on the screen. She explained the Green Business Award to the new members. The Committee reviewed and discussed the survey questions and made edits where necessary. Ms. Potvin stated that she gave the Commission members access to the survey so they can add any questions they want. The Green Resident Award will go with the GDS home energy pilot score questions. She wanted to do the Green Business survey first to see if they liked the format and if they thought it would work, and if so, she would go forward and do the SolarUp – collecting stories from people in Town that have solar. She mentioned some possible questions for that one. The purpose of doing that survey is so they could come up with another SolarUp campaign. She would like the Town to create a Bedford Energy Commission email, but it would have to be in Google or she could create one in Google that said [BedfordEnergyCommission@gmail.com](mailto:BedfordEnergyCommission@gmail.com). Councilor Bandazian suggested [Bedfordnhenergycommission@gmail.com](mailto:Bedfordnhenergycommission@gmail.com). Ms. Potvin stated that she would give permissions to everybody on the Commission. Councilor Bandazian mentioned the Right-To-Know Law and thought they may have to have it forwarded to a [bedfordnh.org](mailto:bedfordnh.org) email automatically.

The Commission viewed and discussed the Green Business Award Application. It's separate from the Green Business Survey.

##### **2. Website updates:**

The Commission viewed and discussed the different headings and content on the Energy Commission webpage. Ms. Potvin stated that if any of the Commission members have anything to put up on the website under 'Learn' or 'Events' to let Councilor Bandazian know. The Commission also viewed and discussed the Facebook page; any of the Commission members can post to it.

##### **3. Solar:**

- a) **Collect stories from our past Solar Up campaign – come up w/ questions for the survey** - Ms. Potvin will create a Google doc for that once she gets the email set up.

- a. **Develop new Solar Up campaign** – No update
- b. **Grants for PV display @ Transfer Station – NHCF express grant deadline for 2018 applications is March 30, 2018** – Under review
- c. **Encore, VT solar installer** – They apologized and intend to get back to them.
- d. **Renewed RFP for solar projects**

The Commission discussed not doing that right now, because of the issues with the tariffs. Mr. Kerr thought they should put it out there and see what they get. Ms. Potvin suggested Mr. Kerr get RFP's that other communities are doing so they can get it started.

- 4. **Green Business Award** – already discussed
- 5. **Recycling bins at town pool/town fields/schools**

Councilor Bandazian stated that he's made that request.

## 6. **Transfer Station**

### a. **Portfolio Manager**

Councilor Bandazian showed the Portfolio Manager on the screen showing energy use.

- BCTV: Seasonal energy usage.
- Library: Electricity consumption has gone down since Geothermal was installed back in 2016. Library has only gone through half a tank of oil this winter due to this change. Geothermal has reduced the electricity consumption by 20%.
- Bedford Village Common: Energy consumption is mostly the decorative lights and parking lot lights on Bell Hill road.
- Highway garage: Usage shows that they had a busier and colder winter.
- Joppa Hill soccer fields: Seasonal irrigation.
- Legacy park/fields: Usage is seasonal for the lighting. Ms. Potvin would like to see those changed over to LED's initiated through public works.
- Old Town Hall: Seasonal pattern of energy use.
- Riley field: High consumption for lights seasonally, and there would be potential for these to also be switched to LED.
- Safety complex: Biggest energy user; usage is high in the summer months.
- Sportsman field: Usage is low due to the light poles being replaced due to aging.
- Tennis court County Road: Energy usage bill is on track to be \$7,000.00 dollars this year.
- Town office: Chart shows usage that represents a heating system that is not efficient.
- Town pool: Seasonal energy hog. Splash pad added.
- Transfer station: Seasonal. This facility would benefit from changing the lights to LED. The high consumption is due to the compactors, lights, electric heat in the office, poor insulation.
- Waste and Materials: Tracks the recycling.

The Commission would like to add the school district buildings to portfolio manager.

Ms. Potvin stated that Jeff Foote, Public Works Director, had emailed a list of items to create an article for the local papers about spring cleaning. The article would include:

- Cost of throwing away items
- Updates about the transfer station
- The options of landfills and single stream recycling
- Transfer Station budget
- China cutting off recycling imports
- The town receiving revenue on scrap metal
- List alternatives to solid waste including Freecycle
- Promote the Bedford energy website page for more ways to reduce solid waste
- Soft plastic cannot be recycled in the single stream, but can be returned to the grocery stores

Lex and Catherine will do a letter to the editor and send to the Commission for edits, approval, etc. Councilor Bandazian thought the local newspaper may turn it into an article.

#### **E. 2020 Master Plan Update:**

Councilor Bandazian stated that the RFP is out and closes for bids the end of this month. He's on the steering committee that will go through the RFPs and select a vendor. Once they have a consultant putting together a larger group, there will be a chapter on energy and sustainability, and the Commission should take a look at the old one and think about what they want in the new one.

#### **F. Old Business:**

Mr. Gillis gave a shout out to HAREI. They had their first big solar share of the year and there were about 20-25 people there. They are trying to find a local vendor.

#### **G. New Business:**

Councilor Rombeau nominated Jeff Kerr as Chair, seconded by Ms. Potvin. Vote taken – Approved. Ms. Potvin nominated Andrew Gillis as Vice Chair, seconded by Lex Joy. Vote taken – Approved.

#### **H. Reminders:**

The April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting was proposed to be moved to April 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### **I. Adjournment:**

**MOTION by Shayna Potvin to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Motion seconded by Lex Joy. Vote taken – All in favor.**

Respectfully submitted by  
Kayla Chase