

Energy & Natural Resources Advisory Committee

MINUTES

October 5, 2022

Present: Camilla Lockwood, Chair, *Town of Temple*; Scott Maslansky, *NH Community Development Finance Authority* (remote); Richard Mellor, *Town of Rindge*; Marge Shepardson, *Town of Marlborough*; John Snowdon, *Town of Westmoreland*; Ruth Ward, *Town of Stoddard*.

Staff members present: Lisa Murphy, *Senior Planner*; Todd Horner, *Senior Planner*; Rich Clough, *Office Support Specialist*.

Guests present: Peter Hansel, Zach Luce and Jake Pipp, *Keene Energy & Climate Committee*; Barbara Skuly, *Town of Swanzey Energy Committee*.

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Lockwood called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. and introductions were made.

II. Minutes of June 22, 2022

Chair Lockwood called for a motion to approve the minutes of June 22, 2022.

Motion: To approve the minutes of June 22, 2022.

Motion by Ruth Ward, seconded by Richard Mellor. Approved by unanimous vote.

III. Presentation: Keene Energy Committee

Lisa Murphy introduced Todd Horner of SWRPC staff, who gave a brief overview of the upcoming Green Energy Week that would showcase energy innovations in local businesses and have panel discussions with experts from various industries and government organizations.

Lisa Murphy introduced Peter Hansel, Chair of the Keene Energy & Climate Committee, who described the major points of the Keene Energy Plan including:

1. Decrease community wide energy use
2. Generate energy within the community esp. solar panels
3. Community power, use grid but buy collectively
4. Education

Zach Luce explained that the Keene Energy & Climate Committee was broken into different workgroups including education and weatherization. He noted that workgroups have members who are not part of the regular committee which helped to diversify the ideas and cast the information into wider networks. He stated that last year the Committee had focused on weatherization and education for small businesses, while this year the focus had shifted more towards residential work. He described some events that the education committee had helped to sponsor in the last year including:

1. An Energy Expo in Railroad Square in Keene
2. Small business energy audits
3. Keene Energy Week
4. Solar Energy Forum

Zach Luse made note of upcoming outreach events including a Monadnock Sustainability Hub virtual drive-through during Keene Energy Week, a button-up workshop on October 12th, a solar tour, the Climate and Energy Expo scheduled for Saturday October 15th, and a Window Dressers community build on October 28th, 29th, and 30th. Jake Pipp explained that he was on the weatherization subcommittee, and many renters have barriers to weatherization programs and landlords may not be incentivized. He stated that there was no local option for window inserts but the subcommittee was able to find Window Dressers, a non-profit organization based in Maine. He described the construction process for the inserts and stated that the prepared materials were shipped to a location where a community build would take place. He stated that people who purchased the inserts were expected to donate one 4-hour shift for every 3-5 inserts purchased. He explained that a community build reduces costs, permitting low-income renters/homeowners to participate in the program, and that each community build event was almost completely organized by volunteers. John Snowdon asked if this can be scaled larger, possibly with multiple communities? Peter Hansel replied that it is difficult to get volunteers to travel to community builds and that the Monadnock Sustainability Hub is trying to reach a larger audience. The Hub hopes to get an energy circuit rider, and that Clean Energy NH is attempting to hire another circuit rider to expand education and ideas. Jake Pipp explained that 200-250 inserts can be built at a typical town level community build event. Barbara Skuly asked if homeowners can build their own? Jake Pipp responded no, that some special industrial assembly machines were required to do the shrink wrapping of the plastic. He added that more inserts could be built if more shifts and days are added to an event. Scott Maslansky suggested inviting observers to the event to solicit more business. Richard Mellor asked how long did it take to set-up an event? Jake Pipp replied that the process typically took 9 months to a year. Camilla Lockwood noted that these events could be a good educational experience. Jake Pipp described the process, noting that there was a cutoff date for insert orders of approximately 10 days before the community build and that purchasers had to pay for the inserts at the time of the measuring. He reminded the Committee that the Keene community build event was scheduled for Friday through Sunday, October 28th, 29th, and 30th. He noted that community builds are listed on the Window Dressers website as well as many FAQs about the program. He explained that the crew size was 10-12 assemblers per shift, and that a good tactic was to recruit service groups to fill out shifts that were incomplete. He also noted that pricing was based on the size on the inserts, that they were measured to 1/100 of an inch, that foam insulation was applied to the edges to make a snug fit, and that nails were not used in the installation. He also noted that the light weight and no-nail installation made it convenient for renters to install and uninstall the units. Lisa Murphy asked about outreach events to get the word out. Peter Hansel and Zach Luse noted that volunteers promote the event through other groups that have followers and that the coordination of partnerships was helpful to spreading the word. John Snowdon thanked the presenters and noted that the efforts of the Keene Energy Committee provided a blueprint for other municipalities to follow. Committee members commented on the high quality of the presentation. Chair Lockwood thanked the presenters for their time.

IV. Update on Watershed Projects

Lisa Murphy updated the Committee on progress with the Ashuelot River Corridor and Lake Warren implementation work, both of which would finish at the end of this year. She reported that the Spofford Lake implementation kick-off meeting was imminent, and that a request for qualifications for the Swanzy Lake watershed management plan would be posted soon. She added there are plans to submit 3 additional applications including: Laurel Lake in Fitzwilliam, Lake Warren in Alstead and the Ashuelot River.

V. Committee Leadership

Lisa Murphy explained that the Committee needed to add members and nominate a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman. A general discussion followed where it was noted that there was difficulty at the town and regional level to find volunteers to serve on Committees.

VI. Next Meeting January 25, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Clough
Office Support Specialist

