

NRPC Energy and Climate Committee

Minutes - November 16th, 2022

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Attendants: Peter Zamore, Kirk Waite, Dan Steely, Matthew LeFluer, Al Voegele, Bob Buermann,

Staff: Catherine Dimitruk, Emily Klofft, Marlena Valenta, Brian Caffrey

Meeting begins at 6:30

Motion 1: Adjustments to the agenda

C. Dimitruk makes no adjustments to the agenda.

Motion 2: Electing of a chair and vice chair of Energy Committee

A. Voegele and P. Zamore were nominated by Kirk Waite for the chair, and vice chair respectively

D. Seeley confirmed the appointment

Motion 3: Discuss change of date for December meeting

C. Dimitruk proposed changing December meeting date, from December 21st. The committee agrees to keep the date the same.

Motion 4: Walk-through of the draft energy chapter

M. Valenta walking through the draft of energy chapter.

K. Waite is confused about the wording of goal 1, thinks it should be clarified or re-worded. M. Valenta elaborates that adjustment of goals and expectation due to lack of data prepared.

P. Zamore has questions about difference between the energy chapter and full plan. E. Klofft explains that we choose to do these separately for clarity and simplicity. As well as the complete energy plan is in need of more data to be able to make the full adjustments.

K. Waite wonder why no data, and if adding data would be beneficial to the municipalities trying to interrupt the plan. Concerns over not enough "meat" and content. E. Klofft notes the data is out of date, as well as not region specific... therefore it was removed. We are still waiting on the updated data from DPS. Elaborates to say that it is better to give no goals than false goals. M. Valenta agrees that the plan needs data, but the goals and policy are a strong outline and summary, and are still a useful tool for moving forward.

M. LeFluer wonders what the outlook for the plan, when could we expect data. M. Valenta confirms we are still unsure, and are playing the waiting game...Will keep the committee updated on the release of data

Motion 5: Review schedule for completion of energy chapter and plan

C. Dimitruk runs over the rough schedule for creation and work on the complete energy plan.

M. LeFluer is concerned about Act 248/250 for local region. C. Dimitruk says would provide energy generation siting maps for the entire region

P. Zamore wants clarification on the benefits of the creation of a whole new energy plan, and how much difference this “increased plan” will make. M.Valenta explains the energy plan “updates” will be more targeted, and will be building upon the existing plan... so therefore it is more making tweaks and fixes. E. Klofft notes the plan has been used to help with section 248 by create net-metering projects, as well as having a well-done energy plan helps projects get taken more seriously and undertaken more professionally. Increased clarity in project implementation and review will only help

A. Voegele is curious if public engagement will be used for energy plan. C. Dimitruk confirms that we would.

K. Waite questions that if the lack of transmission capacity, and lack of support from wind, should therefore be removed from the plan? M. Valenta believes were planning on making this change to the plan to be region specific and elaborates it is land use constraint based

Motion 6: Overview of newly passed Municipal Fuel Switching Program

C. Dimitruk supports towns upgrading municipal buildings getting official audits, and weatherization upgrades are therefore made. The program will be rolled out after new year, due to the revenue switch and delays for the project

K. Waite encourages reaching out to towns so they have a heads up about the changes, i.e. Libraries, rescue facilities, schools, fire district...M.Valenta and C. Dimtruk have been working to create an updated list of buildings that fall into this category. The building itself has to be owned by the municipalities, partnership do not fall under this.

M. LeFleur wants a list of Do’s and Don’ts from which qualifies for the grant money (digestible for public use)

Motion 6: WindowDresser Updates

Start of WindowDresser build this week, Friday-Wednesday in Enosburg

M. LeFleur is concerned about transportation of windows. M. Valenta explains that they are trying their best to deliver/drop-off window

Potential for this to be turned into “trade-school” credits to help grow the work force moving forward...

M. Valenta emphasizes that this as a goal for next year.

Meeting is adjourned at 8:05 PM