



**Planning and Development Office**

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June 17, 2019

Minutes – Energy Committee

Approved 7/15/2019

Present: David Lucier, Scott Pope, Reb McKenzie, Robin Hutchins, Marilyn Harris.

Staff: Scott Osgood, Nancy Merrill

Meeting began at 6:00 p.m.

Henry Herndon from Clean Energy NH came to speak with the Committee about creating a solar ordinance. He felt that what they were seeing in other communities was the balancing of the value of renewables and aesthetics “rural character”. He encouraged the committee to consider two important elements:

1. Lot Coverage – Do you want to be most restrictive and define it as the parameter of the array, or the least restrictive and measure just the footings, or something in between.
2. Aggregate cap – Is there a maximum amount of land per project that would be permitted in the ordinance?

There was follow up conversation by the board. Should applications be considered on a case by case method using conditional use permits, or as permitted depending on a table of approved project types.

Staff liked the definitions in the model ordinance to break down the size and scope of the different types of solar projects that would be considered. Staff also wants the ordinance to consider viewshed.

David Lucier thought that landscaping from the street level would help address rural character issues. Landscaping should be addressed in the ordinance.

Scott Pope discussed the need to make up for what was being lost in the grid from the close down of Yankee and coal plants. Greening the grid is the outcome.

Robin is interested in best practices in other communities and also wanted to review the conditional use criteria in the current zoning ordinance.

The committee discussed glare, which is addressed in the model ordinance.

Scott Pope asked if solar projects could be considered primarily as the size of the unit instead of lot size. He left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

David suggested we consider where we don't want solar projects by looking at the utility map first and then the viewshed.

There was discussion about HB 365 regarding net metering. The April and May minutes were deferred to July pending comments from Reb.

Robin requested committee members write some of the educational articles for eTicker and the Eagle. It will require all of the committee to be effective because of the time it takes to write an article.

There was discussion about bonding for energy efficiency at city facilities, particularly City Hall.

MOTION: To support energy improvements to city hall as defined by the City Council.

Made by Marilyn Harris

Second: Robin Hutchins

Vote: Unanimous

MOTION to adjourn.

Made by Reb McKenzie

Second: Marilyn Harris

Vote: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.