

Minutes of Monthly Meeting
Sustainable Hanover - Energy Initiative
Tuesday, Oct 11, 2022 1:30-3:00 pm

Attending: Yolanda Baumgartner, Stowe Beam, Barb Callaway, Judi Colla, Rob Houseman, Robin Kaiser, Dennis Robison, Marjorie Rogalski, Ben Steele, Emily – Dartmouth College student who works with Sarah Kelly.
Guest Rosi Kerr of Dartmouth College

Minutes

Judi urged committee members to let Ben know if there were any corrections to the September minutes.

Communications

- **Website** - The Communications Group is seeking someone to help with the SH website. Judi asked Rosi if she could help spread the word on campus. Stowe estimated about 2 hours/week would be needed and agreed to write up a brief job description. There was discussion about how much and how payment could be made for this service.
- **Newsletter** - The next issue will be about the Inflation Reduction Act and its benefits. Yolanda suggested that our volunteers develop information on the numerous topics which they work on and submit their input to Dennis. The article could link readers to previously recorded webinars on the topic. An article on Dartmouth's energy transition may also be included or perhaps covered in a future/special edition.

Transportation

The Transportation - EV taskforce is willing to help the Town in its efforts to encourage and map locations for more EV Charging stations. Pete K was not present to update the group on his efforts. Marjorie noted that there will be a discussion regarding this topic at this Friday's LES conference in Manchester.

Miscellaneous

Judi passed on the information that any proposed zoning changes must be submitted by Nov 15th. She asked if Rob H could work with this group and possibly Chris K/Sloane Mayer about possible changes to zoning that would encourage energy efficiency. Rob wants to ensure that they view the subject overall rather than issue by issue. Once the new Master Plan is complete, which should be in about 60 days, it will set the stage for massive zoning changes. Yolanda suggested that any possible changes be directed to the Master Plan advisory committee which includes SH member Chris Kennedy. Residents can also comment online and at an upcoming public hearing.

Presentation by Rosi Kerr:

Rosi Kerr thanked SH for working to increase adoption of renewable energy and improve energy efficiency for the past 12 years – her tenure at Dartmouth. She then presented information on Dartmouth's energy transition

The vision and goals for the College can be viewed at

<https://www.sustainability.dartmouth.edu/goals-and-progress> or
<https://president.dartmouth.edu/sites/president.prod/files/president/wysiwyg/ourgreenfuture.pdf>

Originally issued in 2017, this plan is reviewed every 5 years so a review is happening right now. The public can comment online and at public meetings.

Dartmouth's goals are to reduce GHG emissions as measured in 2010, by 50% by 2025 and 80% by 2050. Another goal is to increase the efficiency of their distribution system by 20% by 2030. They intend to get 50% of their energy from renewable sources by 2025 and 100% by 2050.

Currently, 72% of the College's energy consumption is from #6 fuel oil, 26% is from grid, and 2% is from solar.

In planning this transition, the College has to consider sustainability vs campus needs vs economic stewardship and costs. They are thinking in terms of a circular economy and how their energy and operating consumption is connected to resources, waste, and transportation.

The College has a district heating system that burns the highly polluting #6 oil. They are working on how to transition to a non-combustible form of energy, preferably locally generated. These plans include solar, solar thermal, geo-exchange and energy storage. In order to serve the existing buildings, they need to change the distribution systems to many buildings and install other measures, perhaps heat pumps, etc. They are looking ahead 25-30 years when any geothermal system may need to have new wells dug. Whatever distribution system they install needs to be adaptable and able to accommodate a variety of technologies, including those yet to emerge.

Even with solar and geothermal, the College will have difficulty meeting its 2025 goal. While the College will gradually wean itself off from the central plant that now burns #6 fuel oil, this is likely to take about ten years.

Ben asked if biomass would be used. Rosi said that since the next 5 to 15 years is crucial to climate change, the College feels the need to sequester carbon in an amount equal to or more than what they are using; biomass may not meet that criteria. Rosi prefers to avoid combustion when possible.

The College will need electricity to deliver geothermal. A large solar array is on the table. A VPPA is being considered, but there are concerns about a long-term 20-year commitment.

Other topics were deferred until the next meeting in November.

Minutes submitted by Marjorie Rogalski

