

**Town of Exeter**  
**Energy & Sustainability Advisory Committee**  
**Special Joint Meeting**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 at 6:30 PM  
Nowak Room, Town Offices

Call to Order

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm and began with an introduction of members present:

Energy: Cliff Sinnott, Amy Farnham, Stephanie Marshall, Mark Lemos

SAC: Chris Zigmot, Chetana Parmar, Nina Braun, Ryan Jean, Dan Chartrand (SAC Select Board Rep), and Staff: Kristen Murphy. Ms. Murphy offered to take minutes so members could more easily participate in the discussion.

2. Public Comment: None.

Action Items

1. SAC reviewed the minutes of their December 5<sup>th</sup> 2023 meeting. *Motion by Ryan, second by Nina to approve the minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.*
2. Discussion of Committee Merger:
  - a. Selectman Chartrand provided the background on the Select Board consideration for a joint EC/SAC committee as part of a broader effort to review quorum concerns for several town committees. Ms. Murphy shared the doodle poll results reflecting a challenge finding a common meeting day/time. She thanked committee members being willing to flex their schedules for the purpose of tonight's meeting in order to provide a recommendation to the Select Board.
  - b. Mr. Zigmot shared his approach to considering this and encouraged members to also think not just about their individual preferences but whether meeting together or separately is more productive and best for the town as a whole to achieve their broader goals.
  - c. Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of a combined committee. Benefits included addressing quorum and the potential for increased visibility which could make it more attractive to volunteers. There was recognition Exeter is fortunate to have two committees as many towns do not have either. Concern was expressed that combining each committee's tasks could increase meeting times. The group discussed how a subcommittee approach could work to address the full scope of each group's projects. Ms. Murphy explained the model used by the Conservation Commission where ad-hoc committees are set up as necessary to address a particular project/topic. The ad-hoc would not include a quorum of the committee and can include participation from non-committee members. The group works outside of the main committee meeting and brings a recommendation back to the committee for consideration/action. Members felt non-committee member participation through the ad-hoc committees could draw more involvement. Concerns remained over diluting the efforts of each committee if they were combined.
  - d. Each board stepped through some of their major initiatives and some natural areas of collaboration were evident, as well as topics that seemed more specific to the individual committees. Both committees strongly felt despite the concerns of merging, there was a clear benefit to collaborating. There was unanimous preference to recommend they remain separate committees but to convene joint meetings either twice a year or quarterly.
3. Rugg Property Warrant Article: *Mr. Zigmot made a motion for the SAC to prepare letter(s) indicating sustainability committee support for the Rugg property warrant article. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jean. Unanimously Passed.*

4. The SAC expressed interest in involvement with the Window Dressers program so Ms. Murphy will send the manual and a link to the google sheet where individuals can indicate their interest in a leadership role or to recommend names of individuals who may be. Mr. Jean indicated he knew several who may be interested in helping to measure for the window inserts.
5. Mr. Zigmot, Mr. Lemos and Ms. Parmar will work with Ms. Murphy on exploring the styrofoam recycling initiative. Initial efforts may include hosting a collection day with volunteers bringing material to the Gilford hub as well as participating in the REDC discussions exploring a styrofoam recycling hub in the seacoast region.
6. Adjourn: Ms. Farnham motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Sinnott. Unanimous agreement. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by Kristen Murphy.