

TOMPKINS COUNTY ENERGY TASK FORCE
Thursday, February 8, 2018
TCPL Borg Warner Conference Room
Final Minutes

Attendance

Member		Member		Member	
Sharon Anderson	P	Curt Gooch	P	Irene Weiser	E
Martha Armstrong	P	Bob Howarth	E	Gordon Woodcock	E
Cliff Babson	A	Tim Mount	E	Sarah Zemanick	E
Fernando de Aragón	P	Megan Pulver	P		
Brian Eden	P	Martha Robertson	P	Staff	
Todd Fox	P	Brice Smith	P	Katie Borgella	P
Nick Goldsmith	P	Jennifer Tavares	P	Kristin McCarthy	P

Guests – Ian Shapiro (Taitem Engineering), Ken Schlather (Cooperative Extension), Sarah Hess

Welcome, Introductions – Chair Sharon Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. She welcomed guests and asked the Task Force members to introduce themselves briefly.

Comment from the Public: Round 1 – No comments.

Approval of December 2017 minutes –Todd Fox made a motion to approve the December 14, 2017, minutes. Fernando de Aragón seconded. Motion carried.

Update on Ithaca Green Building Project – Nick Goldsmith and Ian Shapiro

Nick Goldsmith apprised Task Force members on the status of the Ithaca Green Building Project, which is studying energy use and water use standards and examining policy tools that Ithaca could potentially use to incentivize or mandate green building standards in new construction and major renovations. The project is also exploring the possible social impacts of such standards and policies, and the implications for equity. There is no way for the County to meet the 2050 GHG goals without tackling building energy use. The project team is currently seeking feedback from stakeholders, with the long-term goal of having Ithaca’s Green Building Policy adopted by the Common Council and Town Board. So far, feedback from the City and Town has been very positive. Brian Eden said he sees no way of reaching 80% by 2050 goals without getting rid of natural gas. Ian replied that they are wrestling over whether to keep fossil fuels out of the proposal. Fernando suggested possibly using a “negative point” system, by which builders would lose points if they use fossil fuels and would need to recoup these losses in other ways. For safety reasons, Todd would like to see more incentives for developers not to use natural gas lines in apartment buildings. He also favors discouraging new infrastructure that relies on fossil fuels for its energy needs.

NYSEG Energy Smart Community: Smart Meters Data Portal – Sharon Anderson

Sharon updated the group on NYSEG’s Energy Smart Community program. This program, which is being piloted in sections of Tompkins County, will eventually be scaled up to the entire NYSEG service area. Cornell Cooperative Extension is helping with public education and outreach. Minus those who opt-out, every household in the pilot area will have a smart meter and will be able to examine their energy usage via the NYSEG Energy Manager online portal, which will be live shortly. Sharon asked for feedback on the design and usefulness of the portal’s user interface. Katie suggested including a text summary that interprets the consumer’s energy usage graph. Nick asked if it were possible to display combined energy costs (gas and electric) in the graph; Sharon said no but

agreed it was a good idea. He also suggested adding an aggregate option to look at energy use throughout entire municipalities. The next phase (roughly March-May 2018) involves building time-of-use rate scenarios into Energy Manager.

Gateway: The Internet of Things Project– Ken Schlather

Ken spoke with the group about The Internet of Things Project, a collaboration between Cornell Cooperative Extension and Tompkins County. The first part of the project establishes a network of monitors to manage and follow real-time energy use in County buildings and other municipal and commercial buildings throughout the County. Nodes collect data from the sites and transmit it to gateways; the gateways then forward the data to the core network. The plan is to have 60 gateways in place before the end of 2018. The County has invested \$40,000 and hopes to recoup it in energy savings within the first year. A proposal was submitted to the NYSERDA REV University Challenge to help with expansion. Martha Robertson suggested tying it to some sort of training education program at TC3. Ken said the Workforce Development Board is involved in the initiative.

Member Announcements

- Ithaca Startup Works will hold a Networking@Rev: Clean energy event on March 8th.
- Katie encouraged everyone to spread the word about the open positions in the Planning and Sustainability Department.

Comments from the Public: Round 2

- No comments

Adjournment – Chair Sharon Anderson adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:35 am.

*These draft minutes will be formally considered by the Energy Task Force at its next meeting, and corrections or notations will be incorporated at that time. Prepared by Kristin McCarthy, Tompkins County Planning and Sustainability Department.
Approved by the Energy Task Force: April 20, 2018*