

INFORMATION ITEM 2

E-mail dated January 16, 2015 + Attachment

To: Chair and members of Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee
From: Richard MacLellan, Manager, Energy & Environment

Please accept this recent meeting summary from the Halifax Chamber Energy Advisory Group as an update on their status, essentially they will be merging with QUEST (Quality Urban Energy Systems of Tomorrow) and using some of the Chamber resources. The relevance is that it was their 2012 public submission to the Regional Plan review that essentially initiated the Community Energy Plan revision.

Their effort on the project has been very helpful and appreciated. The Project was on their Agenda at four meetings, referenced in their Business Voice publication, and they completed two surveys to enable a deep engagement with the business community.

I thought it was relevant that committee be informed of this progression.

Regards,

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Summary of the Energy Committee's January 15, 2015 Meeting

Future Projects for the Energy Committee

Nancy began the meeting by giving a brief overview of the Energy Committee's recent history. Back in 2013, most of the Chamber's committees were wound up after the 2013-2018 Strategic Plan was introduced in favour of two new task forces. The Energy Committee was kept because it still had work ongoing with the city and QUEST on the Community Energy Plan. Since that work is largely completed, the committee needed to decide what it wanted to do next. The three options were:

1. Undertake a new project with a defined leader and outcomes
2. Move to a consultation/networking group that would meet on a quarterly basis
3. Disband the committee

Based on the committee's discussion, there was little appetite for disbanding. The committee also agreed however, that there was no pressing issue for the committee to address. The consensus seemed to be that quarterly meetings would be a good way to keep the best parts of the existing group while maintaining a reasonable time commitment. This also leaves the option to pursue new issues as they arise.

Decision

- QUEST will work on sending articles to the Chamber for possible publication in Business Voice to promote increased energy literacy among Chamber members.
- Once the city has released its draft Community Energy Plan, Chamber staff will gauge the committee's interest in coming together to discuss it.
- The committee will move to a less intensive meeting schedule (likely once per quarter).

Future Meeting Dates

Meetings will be held on a quarterly basis unless urgent issues arise.

Summary

The Energy Committee agreed to reduce its meeting schedule to once per quarter and to address issues as they arise. The Chamber will continue to promote energy literacy amongst its members.