

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Sustainable Energy Commission held a regular meeting Thursday, November 21, 2013 in Meeting Room #3 of the Municipal Center, Newtown.

**PRESENT:** Kathy Quinn, Charlie Copp, Mark Sievel, Barbara Toomey and Joe Borst.

**ABSENT:** Desiree Galassi, Sarah Hemingway, James Gulalo

**ALSO PRESENT:** Director of Public Works Fred Hurley

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Kathy Quinn called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** none.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** none.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:** Mr. Borst moved to accept the minutes of October 17, 2013. Mr. Sievel seconded for discussion. Under Old Business, Solarize CT there should not be a C on PVC, it should read *PV system*. Mr. Sievel also suggested not using abbreviations in the minutes so that the public reading the minutes will have a better understanding of the topic. Under New Business, Sandy Hook Elementary School 'greed covered walkways' should be *green covered walkways*. All were in favor of the minutes as amended.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Home Energy Solutions Program/Thermal Imaging Project:** This is an education and promotional tool. The thermal imaging project takes about 3-6 months. It was decided this is not the time for this project; Mr. Hurley said there will be another opportunity. Ms. Quinn attended a round table which focused on home energy solutions. The state will be putting more of an effort behind this. Social Services is having a hard time getting people to commit to the program. Mr. Hurley said that a trusted volunteer has to accompany social services, go to the individual homes and spend time to explain the benefits as people are skeptical because of scams. Social Services and the Tax Collector and determine who is eligible.

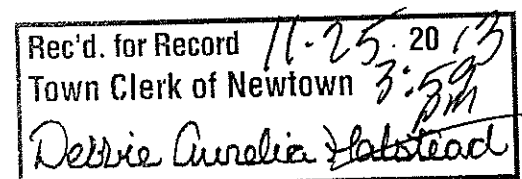
**SolarizeCT Program:** There are 11 contracts. The system at Mr. Stout's home on Grand Place is complete. 43 of 145 leads have been disqualified for various reasons; 91 are open or qualified. Ms. Quinn is waiting to hear back from the schools to see if Solarize Newtown signs can be put at the entry ways. Stop and Shop said a table can be set up inside. There has been discussion with getting students more involved with things going on in town. A table will be set up Thanksgiving morning at the Turkey Trot and yard signs will be put in the Stout yard on Grand Place.

**Purchase Power Agreement (PPA):** Mr. Hurley reported a private investor has come forward to do the dog pound and may also do the Parks & Recreation maintenance facility. An RFP has to be written for Reed School. Mr. Hurley will look into the PACE program.

**ESPC-IGA:** This is moving along, with everyone on board: the town, the school, the library and the Edmond Town Hall.

**Transition Movement:** no report.

**Municipal Energy Plan:** no report.



**Budget/Grants:** The \$10,000 Bright Ideas Grant has been awarded to the town. Much of this is due to the points earned from the home energy audits. The award ceremony is on December 4 in Hartford.

**Tree Lights:** The original Sandy Hook tree will be lit with multicolored lights; the new tree will be lit with green and white LED. The lamp posts will be in white LED lights. The second tree at Rams Pasture will have new lights paid for by the Chamber of Commerce.

**Reed School 5kwh system:** Mr. Hurley is working through scheduling problems and said Mr. Fiaella had compatibility questions on running the two systems together.

Ms. Quinn said she may have Mr. Colin Babbage present to the commission next month.

  
Susan Marcinek, Clerk Pro-Tem