

MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE SUSTAINALBE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Sustainable Energy Commission held a regular meeting Thursday, May 15, 2014 in Meeting Room #3 of the Municipal Center, Newtown.

PRESENT: Kathy Quinn, Charlie Copp, Mark Sievel, Joe Borst, David Stout and Beth Young (7:10pm)

ABSENT: Desiree Galassi, Barbara Toomey, James Gulalo

ALSO ABSENT: Director of Public Works Fred Hurley

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Kathy Quinn called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

COMMUNICATIONS: Ms. Quinn shared an article from the Danbury News Times relative to Green Construction.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES: Mr. Borst moved to accept the minutes of April 17, 2014 with a correction to the first paragraph under Old Business, fifth sentence, strike *but down* and replace with *decrease*. Mr. Stout seconded. All were in favor of the minutes as amended.

OLD BUSINESS:

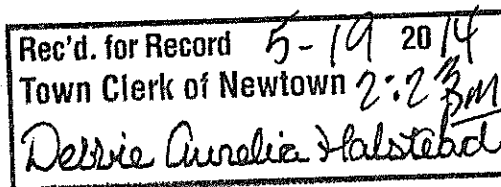
a.) Energy Solutions Programs

Residential – Ms. Quinn began discussion regarding Next Step Living and ductless mini splits vs. vent less regular systems. Next Step is new to the area and working the area aggressively and is part of the HES program. Ductless is more efficient than baseboard electric. Mr. Copp said that the system is not meant to be a replacement it is meant to supplement. Mr. Stout offered to bring the information to an engineer he knows for an opinion and also suggested checking to see if the product is listed with Energystar.gov. He suggested New Step Living present the system to the commission with the understanding, beforehand, of what the expectation are. There is no endorsement of the company or the product.

Commercial – Mr. Stout explained the CPACE program. Betsy Paynter of the Economic & Community Development office is hoping to plan an informational breakfast meeting with commercial entities and non-profits to talk about reducing energy costs and what is available. Mr. Stout talked about the Small Business Advantage Program, a zero percent loan through CL&P or UI. This is a better program than the PACE program if you are a renter or leasing the space. Ms. Quinn said the idea in working with Ms. Paynter is to introduce businesses to the program and see if there is any interest.

Next solar projects:

Brown field sites & Reed School - Bids will not be submitted this round but an RFP will be prepared for the spring submission. A potential plan is to have 600 kW solar system on Reed School and to have a system at the Landfill. There will be net metering on the Reed system; it is grid connected. Mr. Stout wondered what the additional cost would be to attach the Parks & Recreation building, municipal center and the ambulance garage to the large system on Reed School; saying a 600kw system is a huge system. Ms. Quinn said that with net metering the town gets credit that can be applied to another building. There was discussion about systems on the animal shelter and the maintenance garage.



Maintenance Garage/Animal Shelter: These are expected to be completed this summer and will generate 110-112kW.

- b.) **Energy Savings Performance Contract – IGA status** – Ms. Quinn had a copy of the completed IGA on all the buildings; there will be follow up meetings on this. Mr. Stout is a certified auditor for the state and he thinks, depending on the building involved, the small business advantage program might be a more financially attractive program; zero percent financing and it is a cash flow control project also. He would like to walk through one building to see if the small business advantage program would work better.
Microgrid – Chris Lotspeich handles microgrids for Celtic. Ms. Quinn does not think a microgrid in Sandy Hook makes economical sense. This item is tabled.
- c.) **Transition Movement** – not discussed.
- d.) **Municipal Energy Plan** – This is the goal of reducing town power usage by 20% by a certain date and increase purchase of renewable energy by a certain date. This will be worked on soon now that the IGA is complete.
- e.) **Budget/Grant** – Ms. Quinn talked about \$10,000 grant money and money in the budget saying the state is pushing to expand electric vehicle charging stations throughout the state. It is recommended that it be on town property where it is accessible to other facilities such as the library or shopping area; the charge takes about two hours. Depending on the type of grant the first three years may be free, after that it is metered. Mr. Stout said the business model is for bigger stores that will then offer discounts through applications on phones. Businesses with charging stations would give tax relief to people using charging stations. Mr. Copp talked about using grant money on LED lighting projects, saying that this project would benefit more people than a charging station. The first thought was the lights on the flagpole and the exterior lights at the town parks.
- f.) **Energy Star Portfolio Manager** – Ms. Quinn has spreadsheets from Ameresco with information on energy usage.
- g.) **Outreach to Schools:** not discussed.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business the regular meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm



Susan Marcinek, Clerk Pro-Tem