

Town of Newtown, CT

3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION

2-19-2015

The Sustainable Energy Commission held a regular meeting Thursday, February 19, 2015 in shared meeting room 3 of the Municipal Center located at 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT 06470.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Kathy Quinn at 7:07 pm.

Present: Chairman, Kathy Quinn, Bryan Dougherty, Mark Sievel, Dave Stout, Fred Hurley, Barbara Toomey, Desiree Galassi

Absent: Joseph Borst

Communications:

Ms. Quinn stated that there are currently 2 openings on the Commission and there will be an additional opening in June 2015.

The presentation to the Board of Selectman on February 17, 2015 went well. The Board of Selectman liked the presentation and the savings that has come as a result and encouraged the Commission to keep up the good work. The Board of Selectman like the idea of the dashboard on the town website that would detail the savings from each project and building. The dashboard would also create checks for efficiency and would help create a baseline. It is hoped the dashboard will be up and running the end of the year and could also tie into the schools and their curriculum.

Public Comments:

No public comments.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Ms. Galassi made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 15, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Sievel seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Budget / Grant – Park Lighting

Thirty – one fixtures has been installed. With this installation \$4,000 a year will be saved and 21, 413 kilowatts a year will be saved.

Street Lighting

The street lights are owned by a variety of corporations including CL&P, the state, the phone company and / or the cable company. The street lights can be switched to LEDs. The town would save on the usage cost but the flat rate may rise.

The town of Madison has 652 fixtures which cost approximately \$100,000 in lighting costs. Madison has projected they will save \$65,000 annually once the LED fixtures have been paid off.

The cost to purchase each fixture is \$130 plus the cost to replace the lighting source. Within 5 years United Illuminating has stated they will switch all of the street lights in their area to LEDs.

Currently Newtown pays about the same as Madison in street lighting costs. One concern that Mr. Hurley brought up is the maintenance of the LED fixtures and the bulbs, it could be difficult to justify the maintenance costs and potentially jeopardize the health and safety of town employees who would be responsible for the upkeep of these fixtures. The town of Madison uses an outside vendor to maintain their fixtures. Mr. Hurley also stated that if the town breaks even or better then it will make sense to make the conversion.

Mr. Hurley and his team along with CL&P is working on doing an audit of all the street lighting in Newtown and the Boro to determine the exact number and location of all of the fixtures. Each fixture will be assigned a code and the code will correspond to a location.

Residential Post – Solarize Program

The residential post – solarize program will be rescheduled to a later date.

Solar Projects

Landfill

Mr. Hurley is working on creating an RFP (request for proposal) to put the project out for bidding prior to the next ZREC (Zero Emission Renewable Energy Credit) round that will occur in April. There won't be any land use issues and the vendor will take care of any permit needs. There are no impediments that can be seen right now for this system. It will be a ground mount system and the cap cannot be penetrated and the town will need to consider adding additional security to the site.

Reed School

The condition of the roof needs to be considered before a solar system can be installed. The Board of Education will need to make a decision on this issue. The future use of the school will also need to be considered and no decisions have been made on this as of now. An analysis will be done of all of the town buildings as well

Energy Savings Program – Update: Middle Gate School

The data is being finalized for this project. There is the possibility of needing to do an RFP to meet the purchase guidelines of the town. Mr. Hurley will discuss this with CL&P especially regarding the SBA (small business assistance) program and the vendor selection that accompanies this program.

Outreach to Schools – Meeting with Dr. Eradi Jan. 20, 2015

Ms. Quinn and Ms. Toomey met with Dr. Eradi about getting the students more involved. Dr. Eradi will also assist Mr. Quinn in finding a student to assist with the website maintenance.

There is potential to get students involved in recycling, the dashboard for solar in the town, and Earth Day (May 2, 2015). Dr. Eradi was very receptive and is eager to get the students more involved.

Earth Day – May 2, 2015 – Mattress Collection

In the Eco Technology Park in Bridgeport there is a company that collects mattresses for the purpose of recycling them for sustainability. There is a new law going into effect that will charge a \$13 state tax for recycling a mattress.

At Earth Day, Mr. Dougherty is hoping to have a collection point for mattress recycling in cooperation with the Eco Technology Park. There would be no direct cost to the town or the Earth Day Committee and there would just need some coordination done on the location and timing for the mattress drop-off. This would be very good timing with the law going into effect on May 1, 2015. Mr. Dougherty will contact the organization and set up a call to discuss the event and Ms. Toomey will double check with the Earth Day Committee regarding setting up the mattress donation area. Mr. Dougherty will also reach out to the other Eco Technology Park organizations to see if they will to be involved in Earth Day.

The Eco Technology Park could also be a good field trip location for students in regards to recycling.

Municipal Energy Plan

Ms. Quinn has started compiling all of the plan information on paper but there are some gaps and data missing and the information that Ameresco gathered will need to be reviewed and added as well.

In the draft of the plan passed out the Commission, there is a list of current installations as well as future projects. Ms. Quinn needs to compile the rest of the data as well as add the short term and long term goals of the plan and what the possibilities are looking forward.

Energy Star Portfolio Manager

This is now tying in with the Municipal Energy Plan.

Transition Movement

The efforts of the Transition Movement will also be added into the Municipal Energy Plan. A meeting will be scheduled soon as well.

Adjournment:

Ms. Galassi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 pm. The motion was seconded by Ms. Toomey. The motion was carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting will occur on Thursday March 19, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Newtown Municipal Center in Shared Meeting Room 3.

Submitted, Jessica Smith, clerk.