

Town of Newtown, CT

3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION

3-19-2015

The Sustainable Energy Commission held a regular meeting Thursday, March 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 7:03 pm.

Present: Chairman, Kathy Quinn, Bryan Dougherty, Mark Sievel, Fred Hurley, Barbara Toomey, Joseph Borst

Absent: Dave Stout, Desiree Galassi

Public: Steven Gogliettino

Communications:

Ms. Quinn shared two items that had been featured in recent *Newtown Bee* editions. One item stated that Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island are combining as a group to bring clean energy systems into each state at lower costs. The second item regarded the new LED park lights that had been installed.

Ms. Quinn also sent a link to the Commission members to the Energize CT website section that features videos about information about different types of projects.

The Lions Club Duck Race is coming up at the end of May and the Commission will pair up with Public Works to distribute information to residents about different sustainable options that are available to them.

Public Comments:

Mr. Gogliettino is looking into joining the Sustainable Energy Commission and Ms. Quinn invited him to sit in on this month's meeting. Mr. Gogliettino has previously served on the Conversation Commission and his term recently ended. Mr. Gogliettino has an academic interest in sustainable energy and currently works with local utility company in his current profession.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Ms. Sievel made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 19, 2015 meeting minutes with the correct of the superintendent's name to Dr. Erardi. Mr. Dougherty seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Solar Projects

The Dashboard connection has been made. Some connections are having trouble transmitting information but they are in the process of being repaired. The goal of the Dashboard is to be able to see the solar output of all municipal systems across town.

The landfill RGP (request for proposal) will go out this week for the next round of ZREC (zero emission renewable credit) program in April.

The roof at the Reed School is not new enough to support a solar system being on it in its current condition. If a system was built on the roof as it is, the solar system would outlast the roof.

Energy Savings Program Update

Middle Gate School

McKinney Mechanical was at the school looking at the boilers. McKinney Mechanical also services the boilers at Edmond Town Hall. As both locations need new boilers, there may be a possibility to lump both projects together on one quote. There is also a possibility of getting Middle Gate School on natural gas as this project is currently on the gas company's agenda for the year.

Exterior Lighting at Public Works and Waste Water Treatment Plant

A quote for the lighting was sent to Mr. Hurley at Public Works for review. The quote states the town would save \$6,000 and 40,000 kilowatts a year with this new lighting. Mr. Hurley has some questions about the savings numbers being a little high but the project will still save the town both funds and energy usage.

Vendor Selection for Small Business Advantage (SBA) Projects

The SBA program does not dictate which contractor each town has to use. There is a list of approved contractors that each town uses. There is one contractor on the list that is located in town. In order to stay within town purchasing regulations, vendors who are interested in working in Newtown will need to be identified and then rotated on each project.

There are 2 levels of projects. One level is lighting which is at one reimbursement level. The second level is comprehensive that includes lighting and comes at a higher reimbursement rate from CL&P (Connecticut Light & Power). The comprehensive level is a better deal if it works with the project. Middle Gate School will be the test for the comprehensive project level.

Street Lighting

Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership (NEEP) sent Ms. Quinn some information regarding what Connecticut is doing to install LED street lights.

The Connecticut Council of Municipalities (CCM) Energy Street Lighting program is designed to assist Connecticut towns in installing LED street lights. This is one option for converting the street lighting. Another option is for the town to work with CL&P to change the lights over to LED and the energy savings would be passed along to the town. CL&P may be reluctant to do this but will do so if the town pushes. Both options need to be compared to see which is more cost effective.

Earth Day

The Eco Tech Park in Bridgeport is a green energy corporate park.

A mattress recycling organization will be attending Earth Day to collect old mattresses for recycling. The organization also collects books and recycles them. The organization is willing to collect books for recycling as well during the event. The Commission discussed inviting a member of the library to staff the booth as well to quickly sort through any books donated that may be good for selling at the annual book sale. It will be important to get out a messaging plan that includes metrics. An article will be run in the *Newtown Bee* regarding Earth Day which will include this information. There are also funds in the budget that can be used to buy an advertisement regarding mattress and book recycling at Earth Day.

A representative from Bridgeport as well as representatives from the companies at Bridgeport's eco technology park have indicated their interest in coming to speak the Commission. Commission members feel this meeting would be best done separately from the regular meeting. The tentative date for this meeting is April 16 at 6:00 pm. Ms. Quinn and Mr. Hurley will invite Dr. Erardi, Betsy Paynter from the Economic and Community Development Office, and representatives from Monroe and Trumbull's Sustainable Energy Commissions.

Mr. Dougherty has offered to pen an article about Earth Day and the recycling opportunities for the *Newtown Bee*.

Outreach to Schools

Ms. Quinn and Ms. Toomey shared with the group a flyer about a company called Terracycle who collects waste such as chip wrappers or juice boxes and then upcycles the waste and sells it. There is a seminar at Western CT State University on Tuesday, March 24 at 7 pm for anyone who wants to learn more about Terracycle and what they do. This may be a good project for students in lower grades to get involved with.

Dr. Erardi also stopped into the meeting where the commission updated him on the planned meeting with the representatives from the sustainable energy companies in Bridgeport and he expressed his interest in attending. Mr. Dougherty told him about what the different companies do and how they are very open to having classes come down for field trips to tour and learn about the fuel cell plant, biodiesel, and the permeable pavement. There is an aquaculture high school in Bridgeport that is part of the magnet school.

Dr. Erardi admits that there is space for improvement in the schools for sustainability projects. He is open to learning and understanding more about the different opportunities. He thinks it makes sense to have a school board representative attend the SEC meetings along with a teacher from the schools.

Dr. Erardi is looking into finding out more information about the current recycling program that exists in the schools and will report back to the SEC. Ms. Quinn will also send Dr. Erardi the link to the Terracycle website.

Municipal Energy Plan

Ms. Quinn will resent the Municipal Energy Plan to the Commission members and has asked them to review it and send her back their comments. The town of Avon's plan was used as an example. A bulk of the information in the plan came from the IGA. There is support from around town for developing this plan. Rough guidelines for creating the plan were provided by the green bank.

Transition Movement

No update.

Adjournment:

Mr. Borst made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dougherty. The motion was carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting will occur on Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Newtown Municipal Center in Shared Meeting Room 3.

Submitted, Jessica Smith, clerk.