

Town of Newtown, CT

3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION

6-18-2015

The Sustainable Energy Commission held a regular meeting Thursday, June 18, 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 7:02 pm.

Present: Chairman, Kathy Quinn, Steven Gogliettino, Desiree Galassi, Bryan Dougherty, Mark Sievel, Barbara Toomey

Absent: Fred Hurley, Joseph Borst, Dave Stout

Communications:

Desiree Galassi has resigned and this meeting will be her last. She is moving out of state, the commission will miss you!

Star Power, the company that financed the system on the animal shelter and public works garage has sent over information for the commission to review regarding all the current systems in town, Kathy has forwarded to all Commission members.

Ms. Quinn received a call from Ross Solar about creating a follow up program to Solarize CT however the Commission does not want to support just one vendor with any follow up program. Ms. Quinn will inquire with Ross Solar and Direct Energy to see if they will work together on a follow up program. The tax credit for installing a residential system ends this year and that can be used as a selling point for a follow up program. Kathy will contact both organizations to see if they can put together a package for the Commission to review.

Public Comments:

None

Acceptance of Minutes:

Mr. Gogliettino made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 21, 2015 meeting minutes with the following correction: Fairfield is only using one vendor for the residential program solar program (Direct Energy Solar/Astrum) and one vendor for their municipal projects (Power Purchase Agreement). Mr. Dougherty seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Solar Projects: Status of Landfill Project

The final date was today, June 18 2015, to submit a bid for the ZREC (zero emission renewable credit) program. Newtown's bid has been placed by Solar City. The bid includes 4,182 panels with an annual output of more than 1 million kilowatt hours. If the bid is accepted, the town will be over its 2 million kilowatt goal. Acceptance of the bid does look good and the final decisions will be made by July 24, 2015. The system would be completed by October 2016 if Newtown's project is selected.

Budget Re-Appropriation

There is approximately \$13,446.14 in the commission's budget.

Motion: Ms. Galassi made a motion to reappropriate this year's remaining funds, \$13,446.14, into next year's budget for the Sustainable Energy Commission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sievel. The motion was carried unanimously.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station

The subject of adding an EV charging station came up after last month's meeting. The town would like to install an EV charging station possibly at Edmond Town Hall or at Fairfield Hills. There is grant money available from the green bank that could fund this project. It would be best to install the town's first EV station at Fairfield Hills as Edmond Town Hall's parking lot is scheduled to be repaved.

The state is trying to expand the network of EV stations and Newtown is a prime location being located directly between Danbury and Waterbury.

The RFP (request for proposal) went out today for bids for this project. Responses to the RFP are due by July 1, 2015 so the Selectman can approve the project at their July 6, 2015 meeting. Final submissions for the grant funds are due by July 21, 2015. The grant is worth up to \$10,000 and there is just a form that needs to be completed. The commission may need to use some of their budget to supplement the grant.

The electricity for the EV station is free the first three years, since the RFP is for a smart system, the town will be able to install a card reader to charge for the station if they choose.

Energy Savings Program Update

Celtic sent over a service agreement listing time and material rates. The rollover funds could be used to pay Celtic to oversee these projects and start moving them along. Mr. Hurley reviewed the agreement that was sent over and didn't have any issues or questions about it.

Middle Gate School

Gino Faiella sent over a spreadsheet to the commission that lists everything that has been previously worked on in school. The projects on this school can start almost immediately since school is now out for the summer.

Middle Gate will be the first project which will probably be followed by the Middle School and the library or possibly town hall. The SBA (small business advantage) program would fund most of these projects.

Motion: Mr. Sievel made a motion to use Celtic Energy to oversee the Energy Savings Program. Ms. Toomey seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Street Lighting

There is no update. This project will get going once Mr. Hurley returns.

Bridgeport Eco-Tech Park – Next Steps

Mr. Dougherty spoke further with a representative from the Eco-Park and gathered more information about them and their footprint in Connecticut. It seems that they have restaurants they are getting used cooking oil from and Mr. Dougherty is looking to gather more information about this and the restaurants participating. The representative did say they have competition in town and Mr. Dougherty is going to do more research about other possibly organizations working in the area. If the commission members eat out at a restaurant they will also try to see who, if any, company the restaurant uses to dispose their oil. Mr. Dougherty is hoping to meet with some of the representatives in July.

The used cooking oil is being made into bio-diesel. Mr. Dougherty was wondering if the town's vehicles are currently being run on bio-diesel, there would be no conversion needed for any vehicle that already has a diesel engine. The Commission will ask Mr. Hurley when he returns about bio-diesel and the vehicle fleet.

Mr. Dougherty also recommended that the Commission keep pushing for the school's to take field trips to the eco-park.

Outreach to Schools

Ms. Quinn spoke to Keith Alexander, Board of Education member, further since the last meeting and Mr. Alexander did some research about recycling in the schools. He did see some recycling containers in the school's cafeteria. Ms. Quinn also sent Mr. Alexander the information on Terra Cycle to see if that can be incorporated into the schools to spark the students' interest in recycling.

Municipal Energy Plan

No Update

Energy Start Portfolio Manager

No Update

Transition Movement

The Victory Garden has been planted.

Term Limits for Commission Members

This subject cannot be resolved by the Charter Commission but rather the Ordinance Committee which is a part of the Legislative Council.

The steps that must occur for the term limits to be changed are: 1. The First Selectman needs to make a recommendation 2. The recommendation needs to be presented to the Legislative Council 3. The Ordinance Committee needs to review and report back to the Legislative Council their recommendation.

Motion: Mr. Dougherty made a motion to recommend that the Sustainable Energy Commission term limit be modified to the following: No person shall be appointed to more than five consecutive three year terms. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sievel. The motion was carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

Ms. Galassi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sievel. The motion was carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting will occur on Thursday, August 20, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Newtown Municipal Center in Shared Meeting Room 3.

Submitted, Jessica Smith, clerk.