

Town of Newtown, CT

3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION

8-20-2015

The Sustainable Energy Commission held a regular meeting Thursday, August 20, 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, Mark Sievel, Fred Hurley, Joseph Borst, Dave Stout

Absent: Steven Gogliettino, Bryan Dougherty, Barbara Toomey

Public: Jake Lewis, Intern at EverSource

Communications:

This is my, Jessica Smith's, last meeting. Sue Marcinek will be taking over as clerk at the September meeting.

Ms. Quinn reported the budget reappropriation was approved and the funds have been rolled over into the new fiscal year. The new appropriation was also approved.

Ms. Quinn shared that on September 3, 2015 at 5:30 pm the regional energy task force will be meeting at the Wilton Public Library in Wilton, Connecticut. Other clean energy communities will be attending along with Ms. Quinn.

Public Comments:

None

Acceptance of Minutes:

Mr. Sievel made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 18, 2015 meeting minutes with the following corrections: the section in Communications regarding Star Power should be removed, regarding the Middlegate School: Gino Faiella sent over a spreadsheet of proposed projects, not completed projects, and the planned project at the landfill is 1 megawatt, not 1 megawatt hour. Mr. Borst seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Solar Projects

Status of Landfill Project

The contract has been signed with Solar City and the project has qualified for the ZREC (zero emission renewable credit) program. The virtual net metering (VNM) policy hasn't been changed yet but it is currently being reviewed. The project will not go forward without VNM in place. The project is currently in a holding pattern until VNM has been decided upon by the state.

Batchelder Property Potential

A grant has been awarded to begin moving forward with the remediation and cleaning of the site. This could be the site for a future solar project.

Solarize II Proposal

There are few items being worked through with Ross Solar and Direct Energy in order to get this program going.

Clean Energy Community Reward

Newtown has earned 9,000 more points, the equivalent to 2 - \$4,500 grants for clean energy projects in town. Because of the other projects going on in town there is the potential to earn more points and more grants. Ms. Quinn asked the commission members to think about potential projects to use these funds for.

Energy Savings Program Update

Newtown and Celtic have a signed agreement for two years for Celtic to oversee any clean energy projects the town will be working on.

Ms. Quinn and Mr. Hurley met with Celtic and Celtic is assisting with putting together packages for new projects for both solar and other items for municipal buildings and facilities. They also spoke about packaging the waste water treatment plant as a separate project. The next SBEA (small business energy advantage) program project may be the municipal center at Fairfield Hills. Another potential SBEA project is at Head of Meadow school which could look at the lighting, air conditioning, and windows.

Mr. Hurley reported that Public Works is working with Yankee Gas to bring natural gas to the school. Part of the project proposed for the Middlegate School is new boilers along with a full building LED retrofit for lighting.

Municipal Energy Plan & Energy Star Portfolio Manager

Ms. Quinn broke down the proposed projects by building from the Energy Savings Program on a spreadsheet. She is also attempting to categorize them into a potential schedule for the future.

The Municipal Center and waste water treatment will most likely be one of the first few projects. This schedule will also be a part of the Municipal Energy Plan as it gets created.

Mr. Jake Lewis, Intern from EverSource, has imported all data from the Ameresco documents into the Portfolio Manager. This data will be used in the template for the Municipal Energy Plan. He has updated the data to the current electric usage using data from EverSource. As new energy savings programs are put in place they will be able to be tracked using this tool. EverSource is working on an interface to have usage data be automatically uploaded to the Portfolio Manager.

The only data left to be added to the Portfolio Manager is the information from the solar systems and the date the building was built. If the building has been remodeled, the most recent date of remodel should be used. Other optional data can be added as well such as square footage and number of computers. The solar projects have the ability to be linked to the Portfolio Manager but they aren't currently connected via the monitoring services. Ms. Quinn will work on pulling this data with Mr. Hurley. Once all the data is in the Portfolio Manager, reports will be able to be run on the data and Mr. Lewis will be working on creating training on how to pull the reports.

Any individual or entity can use the portfolio manager.

Street Lighting

No update

Bridgeport Eco-Tech Park

No update

Outreach to Schools

No update

Term Limits for Commission Members

The Legislative Council sent a communication to Ms. Quinn from their Ordinance Committee which had a meeting on July 22, 2015. They opened a discussion on the term limits of the Sustainable Energy Commission and the confusing language that is currently in the charter. They are looking into cleaning up the language or removing the term limits all together. They will be continuing the discussion at their next meeting.

Adjournment:

Mr. Borst made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stout. The motion was carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting will occur on Thursday, September 17, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Newtown Municipal Center in Shared Meeting Room 3.

Submitted, Jessica Smith, clerk.