

Town of Newtown, CT

3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Sustainable Energy Commission held a regular meeting Thursday, February 18, 2016 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 7:13 pm.

Present: Chairman, Kathy Quinn, Karen Pierce, Mark Sievel, Dave Stout and Barbara Toomey

Also Present: Fred Hurley

Absent: Joseph Borst, George Brown, Steven Gogliettino,

Communications: Ms. Quinn shared a website from Energy.gov/swap, saying she planned to talk to Betsy Paynter, Economic & Development Coordinator and thinks it's a good idea to link to the Sustainable Energy website. Mr. Stout and Mr. Hurley discussed the Tier One project. Ms. Quinn would like to display the picture board with sustainable business again at the Municipal Center.

Public Comments: none.

Acceptance of Minutes: Ms. Toomey made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 21, 2016 meeting minutes. Mr. Sievel seconded. Ms. Quinn noted the date at the top of the minutes was incorrect and should've been 1/21/16. The motion unanimously passed.

Business:

- a. **Status of Landfill Solar Projects:** On February 25 there will be a public hearing in Hartford and the status of virtual net metering will be discussed. There is a bill to extend the capacity to the eleven stranded towns. The 26 megawatts would cover the eleven towns; additional capacity for brownfields will likely not be done. Solar City will look at environmental impact on the landfill; they want everything ready to go.
- b. **New Solarize Program:** Smart Power promoted Solarize and now are suggesting vendors. Ms. Quinn wants to put this on the website. This will tie into Green Bank for finance options. Mr. Stout suggested reaching out to Green Bank for marketing material. **Mr. Stout moved to include this on the website, Facebook and to reach out to Kate Donnelly for suggested vendors. Ms. Toomey seconded. The motion unanimously passed.**
- c. **Energy Savings program update – Vendor Selection**
Municipal Center: Energy Solutions have been to the Municipal Center to begin the energy audit.
Waste Water Treatment Plant: A meeting was held with Nxegen; they will begin at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Hurley said that the gas line will be brought to Middle Gate School, available July 1.
- d. **Microgrid feasibility study:** CCM (CT Conference of Municipalities) is soliciting companies to provide microgrid and energy savings information and consulting to cities and towns. There are four companies to be interviewed.
- e. **Street Lighting:** Two proposals were vetted through CCM. We have the Esco proposal and are waiting for the Eversource proposal. All lights will be converted to LED over the next five years.

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Town Clerk of Newtown 3:15 pm
Debbie Annelie Halstead

Mr. Hurley said they can be smart lights with the ability to raise and lower lighting levels in a fire/crime area. There is additional energy management or data collection that could be built in.

- f. **Ban on Fracking Waste:** In 2014 the state considered a ban on fracking waste. DEEP (Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) has to make a decision by mid-2017. It is recommended that towns place a ban on fracking waste being brought into their towns. New York has a ban on fracking but not a ban on bringing in fracking waste. The only state with a complete ban is Vermont. Ms. Quinn will talk to Donna Culbert, Director of Health and Mr. Hurley suggested addressing with the Inland Wetland Commission also. Mr. Sievel questioned if this was part of the mission of the commission. If it's tangentially related to energy then it's related to sustainability. Ms. Pierce said we are a region that shares many aquifers and suggested using an agency to pull all municipalities together and coordinate towns and cities in this effort. Mr. Hurley said the legislators and senators could get involved by putting a bill forward.

Additional Items for discussion:

1. **EV Charging stations:** no update; Ms. Quinn will speak to Betsy Paynter regarding the Lexington Gardens property. Mr. Hurley said the town will likely get a small charging station.
2. **Municipal Energy Plan:** waiting on data from projects going on.
3. **Portfolio Manager:** Ms. Quinn and Mr. Stout will get together to complete.
4. **Budget and Grant Spending:** There are \$5,200 in bills, Department of Public Works will pay for some and Sustainable Energy Commission will pay for others.
5. **Web Site:** Ms. Quinn will send Mr. Stout all information needed to update the website.
6. **Outreach to Schools:** The Environmental Club at Newtown High School will do a recycling film, including organics. Ms. Pierce will look into stem programs and suggested bringing classes to local businesses that are actively involved in sustainability. HRRRA.org has a lot of information.

Mr. Hurley reported over 250 have signed up for the organic waste program; 200 have picked up the kits. Contamination issues are being worked through. We are switching vendors.

7. **Bridgeport Eco-Park:** Ms. Quinn spoke to Betsy Paynter; Jeff Leichtman will go to an Economic Development Commission meeting to re-establish the connection.
8. **Earth Day:** Earth Day is April 23. Ms. Quinn will update picture boards.

Adjournment: Ms. Pierce made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38pm. The motion was seconded by Ms. Toomey. The motion was carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 7:00 pm at the Newtown Municipal Center in Shared Meeting Room 3.

Submitted, Susan Marcinek, clerk