

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Sustainable Energy Commission held a regular meeting Thursday, November 17, 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 7:03p.m.

Present: Chairman Kathy Quinn, George Brown, Jeff Jorgenson, Dave Stout, Barbara Toomey

Also Present: Fred Hurley

Absent: Joseph Borst, Mark Sievel

Communications: Ms. Quinn, Mr. Sievel and Mr. Hurley attended the Energize CT Regional Workshop; a display board was presented and is now displayed in the hallway of the Municipal Center. Newtown compares well to other towns; other towns are realizing that there needs to be town funding to back programs. In January 2017 there will be automatic updates, through Eversource, to the portfolio manager. On December 8 there will be a gathering for the 5 year anniversary of the CT Green Bank. The town of Stafford has installed additional solar operations for a total of 3.69 megawatts of power, which is 80% of the municipal electric needs. Ms. Quinn mentioned the sustainable features that were incorporated in Sandy Hook School. The state is rescinding the RFP's to expand natural gas in the state and are focusing instead on hydro, solar and wind. There will be multiple projects.

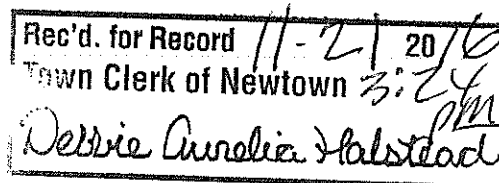
Public Comments: none.

Acceptance of Minutes: Mr. Brown moved to accept the minutes of October 20, 2016. Ms. Toomey seconded. All in favor.

Business

Discussion and possible action:

- a. **Status of Landfill Solar Projects:** There is an agreement on the interconnection costs; modifications have been signed. Mr. Hurley is waiting on the conditional approval on the interconnection. Operational testing is projected to take place at the end of the summer. Mr. Hurley had a follow up meeting with the Superintendent and Board of Education Business Manager on the impacts from virtual net metering and the direct use of power. The baseline generation cost through Constellation is 6.3 cents. The Solomon proposal on a different virtual net metering project at other places in the state show that some of the projects may still provide a benefit due to the virtual net metering credit.
- b. **Reed School solar project:** There is a conditional interconnection approval from Eversource. The system will be installed this year. The intention is to have this functional by the end of April. The tentative agreement is that the operational testing will take place in April. Mr. Hurley had a follow up meeting with the Superintendent and the Board of Education Business Manager on the impacts from virtual net metering and the direct use of power. There won't be any significant budget impact in this budget year. A benefit will be realized in July 1 budget. The quantity of generation purchased will be reduced.
- c. **Grant Funds:** \$5,000 is being used for the LED streetlights; \$8,500 is being supplemented with another \$5,000 from Public Works for electric vehicle charging stations, both fleet and public. Mr. Hurley is looking to purchase a fleet car and a health department replacement vehicle.



d. Energy Savings program update

Municipal Center: This is currently being worked on.

Waste Water Treatment Plant: The work has started.

Middle Gate School: This is complete. The annual kW savings is \$117,000 and the heat savings is 4900 Ccf; which is converting oil to gas. Department of Public Works and the school business office is able to monitor usage. This can also be tracked through the Portfolio Manager. Mr. Jorgenson suggested this would be a good high school project, to put together models. Ms. Toomey stated that the incoming freshman will research an idea for four years culminating with a senior project/paper.

Next Projects: this topic was not addressed.

- e. Microgrid feasibility study:** They have all the energy data.
- f. Street Lighting:** this is being turned over to Celtic. Mr. Hurley will send a letter to Eversource for a baseline number converting everything to LED; the next step would discuss cost to own.
- g. Request from Parks & Rec. Dept. for tree lighting funds:** Parks & Recreation has requested \$726 for additional tree lights for the center of town. It has been several years since they have requested funding for this purpose. Ms. Toomey moved to disperse \$726 to Parks & Recreation for tree lights. Mr. Stout seconded. Motion passed 4-1 (Yes: Brown, Quinn, Stout, Toomey) (No: Jorgenson)
- h. Approval of 2017 Meeting Schedule:** Mr. Brown moved the approval of the 2017 meeting schedule. Mr. Stout seconded. All in favor.
- i. Next round of the Solarize Program:** Mr. Stout stated the residential program in CT is not good due to loss of funding and lack of money to subsidize. Ms. Quinn isn't in favor of another round; the last one didn't receive a lot of response. Mr. Stout moved to table this item. Mr. Jorgenson seconded. All in favor.
- j. Open commission vacancies:** Ms. Quinn explained that there are currently two vacancies on the board. Any interested parties should be referred to the First Selectman's office.

Additional Items for discussion:

1. **EV Charging stations:** this topic was referred to under c.) Grant Funds.
2. **Municipal Energy Plan:** no update.
3. **Energy Star Portfolio Manager:** Ms. Quinn covered this under communications.
4. **Budget and Grant Spending:** this topic was covered under c.) Grant Funds.
5. **Web Site:** no update.
6. **Outreach to Schools:** Mr. Hurley will follow through with Dr. Erardi with the idea of a high school project and will also discuss virtual net metering for the high school. The Water & Sewer Authority will support an intern program. Mr. Jorgenson said there is a lot of green energy that can be tied into math, science and political science. Ms. Toomey said it won't work without teacher input. Mr. Stout suggested an intern program to promote or market the economics of sustainability. Mr. Hurley suggested offering grant opportunities to schools and have them compete for it. Mr. Brown said this needs to be sold from the top down, principals, assistant principals, and administrators to teachers.

7. **Bridgeport Eco-Park:** no update.
8. **Ban on Fracking Waste:** no update.
9. **Organic Recycling:** no update.

Adjournment: Having no other business, the Sustainable Energy Commission adjourned their regular meeting at 8:23pm.

The next regular meeting will be held on December 15, 2016.

Submitted, Susan Marcinek, clerk