

## Willington Energy Advisory Committee Meeting February 4, 2010 Town Office Building

Meeting called to order at 7:34

**Members present:** Christina Mailhos, Ed Taiman, Norman Nadeau, Pam Wheeler, Mark Peczuh, Jim Poole, Ralph Tulis, Carol Springer.

### Present to Speak

**Approval of minutes: Yes: 6, Abstain 2** – Ralph & Jim absent from last meeting.

### Subcommittee reports

- a. Energy audits** Norm arranged energy audit by Climate Partners for Town Office Building, 12 noon, Feb. 13. Committee members urged to attend. Members presented with coupon for home energy audit to learn about auditing through household experience. Discussion about doing another building on same day. Christina noted energy issues at library. All agreed that audit for library would be timely. Norm will try to arrange that and Christina will notify library. Each public building audit will cost \$159. Norm predicts that small projects will be remedied during audit, such as caulking, some lights, and that data about larger issues should be available before our next meeting. Audit may need to be followed by consultation with lighting expert. Committee can assess data and how to advise town at next meeting.
- b. Clean energy options 20% by 2010** Carol was not satisfied with available clean energy option (CEO) information, so she created & distributed a composite of information from CL&P, Sterling Planet and Community Energy to use when we approach householders. Document approved with a few revisions. Carol will send it to Jim for inclusion on web page. Mark will provide this information sheet to school superintendent and talk with him about promoting CEO through schools, his column in Horizons and about our presenting CEO at some school events. Christina reported that when Willington commits to be a Clean Energy Community, investment – before energy conservation measures applied – is estimated at \$540 annually. Carol and Mark will amend proclamation language by next meeting.
- c. Net metering issues/large scale projects** Ed clarified that the letters of inquiry to DPUC about net metering were sent as a volunteer committee member & not as a professional service to Willington. At present, if Willington were to generate electricity from renewable sources it would only be applied to one of the town's many electric accounts. Town of Weston is challenging that policy, and Ed believes it would only require a policy change to apply locally generated energy to all town accounts. There is also an effort to require CL&P to buy locally produced electricity in excess of local needs at maximum rate; referred to as Feed in Tariffs.

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- d. **Public awareness** Pam distributed copies of article about EAC. It was agreed that she should submit it to Horizons and The Willington Word.

**Correspondence/ emails** PTO president, Gianna Stebbins, responded to Carol's inquiry about working with PTO to promote CEO. She suggested various events, and to engage the Boy Scouts. Pepsi grants that Ed checked out were not for municipalities, but were for 501c. Some thought will be given to that.

Discussion: using Yahoo group for committee communication.

Discussion re: legality of Yahoo group and other requirements for committee to be in compliance with Freedom of Information (FOI) requirements. Jim & Christina believe that EAC will be in compliance if

- We post notice of meetings 2 days in advance
- Minutes contain outcome of votes, & note venue and who is present.
- Email vs. hand deliver minutes.

**Website link** Jim volunteered to create EAC webpage on town site.

**Public forums**

**Solar seminars in Tolland.**

**Energy forum** organized by Rep. Bryan Hurlburt, February 16, 6:30 – 8:30, Council chambers, Hicks Municipal Building, Tolland. One panel will include Bill Leary from Inst. For Sustainable Energy and Roger Smith. Second panel in process.

**General Discussion of ideas, new goals, etc./other** Discussion about possible wind tower sites, structures, site regulations, and need to interface with P&Z re: work of EAC and need to have relevant regulations for all zones.

Ed (and Ralph?) will talk with Susan Y. at P&Z.

**Next meeting** date changed to Monday, March 1 at Library, 7:30 pm.

**Meeting adjourned 9:12 pm**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Springer, Secretary.**