

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION

1/19/16

The Sustainable Energy Commission held a regular meeting Thursday, January 21, 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 7:03 pm.

Present: Chairman, Kathy Quinn, Joseph Borst, George Brown, Steven Gogliettino, Mark Sievel, Barbara Toomey

Also Present: Fred Hurley

Absent: Karen Pierce, Dave Stout

Communications: none

Public Comments: none.

Acceptance of Minutes: Mr. Sievel made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 17, 2015 meeting minutes. Mr. Brown seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.

Business:

- a. **Status of Landfill Solar Projects:** The preliminary review of the environmental permits at the state has been completed. Eversource acknowledged having the town application for virtual net metering. In the next week we should receive acknowledgement it is an acceptable application. There are plans in the February legislative session to make the changes in the capacity for virtual net metering. Mr. Hurley said we are trying to get pushed, as an agenda, some development tied to brownfields. There is a proposal to put a solar farm on Batchelder.
- b. **Newtown Energy Challenge (Solarize II):** The two participating companies reported five residential installations and one commercial account.
- c. **Energy Savings program update – Vendor Selection**
Municipal Center: Ms. Quinn passed out responses from JK Energy, Lantern Energy, Energy Solutions and Nexgen. After discussion the commission decided to take Lantern Energy out of the choices. Mr. Sievel stated the Energy Solutions seem to have experience in everything; JK does not have experience with power transformer replacement, which may or may not be an issue. Mr. Sievel thought all three were good options. Mr. Hurley explained that the commission is not locked into just one company, there are multiple buildings. JK Energy is currently working on Middle Gate School. Mr. Brown noted that Energy Solutions has a history of dealing with private and public sector and are likely capable to handling a larger job while JK appears to deal with smaller business or residential. Mr. Hurley said that all firms are qualified with the state and acceptable to operate in the SBEA program. A project can be complete within 60 days. **Mr. Borst moved Energy Solutions begin on the Municipal Center and to have Nexgen start on the Waste Water Treatment Plant per what was identified from the IGA (Industrial Grade Audit) that can be done within SBEA (Small Business Energy Advantage) program. Ms. Toomey seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.**

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Town Clerk of Newtown 11:15am
Debbie Aurelia Halstead

- d. **Microgrid feasibility study:** Mr. Hurley is reviewing nine firms, through CCM (CT Conference of Municipalities), for consulting services for microgrid and evaluation of any energy service contracting. Depending on how they want to go forward we may review Fairfield Hills ourselves; it doesn't stop us from utilizing CCM to bring someone else in later.
- e. **Street Lighting:** Eversource is going to go over proposal for town to take over the street light system and convert to LED. The CCM vendor, ESCO, has a preliminary proposal on the table, which is to audit the listing of lights and come back with a proposal to convert. The project is moving ahead and will include the town and the borough.

Additional Items for discussion:

1. **EV Charging stations:** Mr. Hurley said money has been included to purchase an electric vehicle and the first EV charging stations will likely be at one of the town garages. Public installations can be promoted through grants. Ms. Quinn said she will speak to Betsy Paynter, Economic Development Coordinator, to see if there is any interest at the Lexington Garden complex.
2. **Municipal Energy Plan:** there was no update on this item.
3. **Portfolio Manager:** there was no update on this item.
4. **Budget and Grant Spending:** there was no update on this item.
5. **Web Site:** Ms. Quinn will request that Mr. Stout update the website.
6. **Outreach to Schools:** Ms. Quinn will speak with Ms. Pierce regarding the recycling poster contest and a state wide student contest sponsored by Energize CT.
7. **Bridgeport Eco-Park:** Mr. Dougherty sent Ms. Quinn an email stating that Bill Finch, former Mayor of Bridgeport, is getting involved and there will be regional efforts from that location relative to green solutions.

Mr. Hurley updated the commission on organics: 200+ people have signed up for the organic recycling; 140-150 have picked up the bins. There are some cost problems; as the volume increases it will be more economical. A commercial vendor is being used; it may be less expensive for the town to transport.

Ms. Toomey stated Earth Day is April 23rd.

Adjournment: Mr. Borst made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sievel. The motion was carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 7:00 pm at the Newtown Municipal Center in Shared Meeting Room 3.

Submitted, Susan Marcinek, clerk