

Excerpts from COMMON GROUND by Cal Thomas & Bob Beckel, Harper-Collins, 2007.

A.H.A

“„At the beginning, we promised to put polarization on trial.” (Thomas & Beckel)

“As we go forward, ... distrust and resentment much<sup>f</sup> be left behind.”  
(Editorial, NEWTOWN BEE 4/4/08)

Five Common Ground Governing Principals<sup>les</sup>:

1. There must be agreement that a problem exists, and agreement on what goal needs to be reached to alleviate the problem.

- a. *Overcrowding at the high school*
- b. *Commercial development of Fairfield Hills*

2. For a controversial issue to be resolved in a common ground climate, it must contain elements of the historical orthodoxy of both parties.

- a. *Education of its children is the most important task of local government*
- b. *Property tax relief can be expanded only by more commercial development*

3. The chances for consensus on a solution increase dramatically when fresh ideas to address the problem are brought to the table. (and new people).

- a. *Plan to construct a new high school at Fairfield Hills,*
- b. *Lobby for more state aid to education*

4. A common ground strategy for governing must be provided with the maximum possible amount of political cover.

- a. *Long range planning for 2030 supports new construction*
- b. *Spending more money on education doesn't insure better education*

5. Do not pick fights where the other four common ground governing principles do not and cannot apply.

**Common Ground principals speak for themselves!**

Prepared by: Ruby Johnson 4/7/8

File: Common



## TOWN OF NEWTOWN

### MEMORANDUM

May 18, 2009

From: George Benson, Director of Planning and Land Use

To: Joe Borst, First Selectman

Re: Housatonic Railroad Solid Waste Permit

On May 15, 2009, George Benson, Rob Sibley and David Morosan, (Cohen and Wolf), met with Calin Tanovici, CTDEP in Hartford. The meeting was to discuss the application of Housatonic Railroad for a permit to operate a Solid Waste Transfer Facility in Newtown, CT. During the meeting the CTDEP application process was explained and the input from the Land Use Commissions of Newtown was discussed. The following is an outline of the process.

1. The Housatonic Railroad Company has submitted the application to permit a Solid Waste Transfer Facility to the CTDEP Solid Waste Division.
2. The CTDEP reviews the application and issues a **Notice of Sufficiency**, which confirms that they have submitted all of the required documentation.
3. **Technical Review** by the CTDEP, includes comprehensive review of all the application documents.
4. At this point the Town should conduct an assessment of the application including an independent Traffic Study and submit all comments and issues to the CTDEP. The Town should send a letter to the CTDEP, Water Bureau requesting a review of the application. The Town commissions may be able to require local permits for some of the proposed activity. The level of the Town's participation is currently being researched by CTDEP and Cohen and Wolf. Also, the Town should assess the viability of registering as an Intervenor under CGS 22a-19.
5. The next step is **Notice of Temporary Determination**, which could require a public hearing within 30 days. The Town should request the hearing and/or acquire a petition signed by 25 or more residents to force a public hearing.
6. The **Final Permit** is denied or issued with conditions by the CTDEP.

RECEIVED

MAY 13 2009

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

sent to G Benson 4/20/09  
J. Borst 4/24/09



A.H.C

8 DAVIS ROAD WEST  
P.O. BOX 687  
OLD LYME, CONNECTICUT 06371  
(860) 434-4303  
FAX: (860) 434-4306

1 PM - 4/30/09  
Borson's office

April 20, 2009

Joseph E. Borst  
Office of 1<sup>st</sup> Selectmen  
45 Main St.  
Newtown, CT 06470

RECEIVED

APR 21 2009

Re: Notice of Permit Application

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMEN

Dear Mr. Borst:

Enclosed is a copy of the notice of permit application which was published in The News-Times as notification to the public that the railroad has completed an application for the continued operation and limited expansion of its waste operation on Hawleyville Road in Newtown. While we know that Mr. George Benson mentioned this application to you, DEP requires that we formally notify you that we have applied for the permit.

We welcome any questions or comments you may have regarding this facility and look forward to working with you and the Town of Newtown in future.

Respectfully yours,

Matthew R. Whitney, Esq.  
Associate Counsel



E. COLIN PEASE  
Vice President - Special Projects

Phone: (860) 434-4303  
Cell: (860) 834-2670  
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Email: [ep@peaseandwhitney.com](mailto:ep@peaseandwhitney.com)  
8 Davis Street  
Old Lyme, CT 06371

AH-C

**Notice of Permit Application**

Town(s): Newtown, Connecticut

Notice is hereby given that Housatonic Railroad Company, Inc. (the "applicant") of P.O. Box 687, Old Lyme, CT 06371 has submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection an application under section 22a-208a of the Connecticut General Statutes for a permit to conduct a regulated activity in the construction, alteration or operation of solid waste facilities.

Specifically, the applicant proposes the continued operation and limited expansion of its waste transfer operations. The proposed activity will take place at the railroad's current location: 30 Hawleyville Road, Newtown, CT 06440. The proposed activity could potentially affect: wetlands, watercourses, ground waters, air, or land.

Interested persons may obtain copies of the application from Housatonic Corporate Counsel, P.O. Box 687, Old Lyme, CT 06371.

The application is also available for inspection at the Newtown Public Library at 25 Main St Newtown, CT 06470 and at the Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, Division of Engineering and Enforcement, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127, telephone 860-424-3366 from 8:30 to 4:30 Monday through Friday.

# SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION

## Proposed Organizational Structure

### Background:

The Town of Newtown is governed by a Town Charter. Chapter 4 of the Town Charter describes the Town's Appointive Boards. This chapter covers General Provisions, terms of office, minority representation, general powers, procedures, compensation, and removal for cause. Chapter 21 identifies and defines issues and regulations relating to several but not all specific Town commissions and committees.

The original purpose of the ad hoc Clean Energy Task Force ("Task Force"), formed in October 2007 was to recommend to the Town, a specific supplier of electricity produced by clean energy sources. For the purposes of this effort "Clean energy" has been defined as electricity produced by the sun (solar photovoltaic and thermal), wind, and low impact hydroelectric and landfill (methane) gas sources.

The Town had resolved to join other Connecticut towns in purchasing electricity for municipal and Board of Education use from this supplier so that it could meet its approved goal of 20% of its overall purchases by the end of 2010. The Task Force's mission was to identify the potential suppliers, review their offerings and make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen. While no deadline was given, the intent expressed by the First Selectman was that the Town should work as expeditiously as possible to make its selection, so that the Town could purchase enough clean energy to meet its target of 20% of total purchases by the end 2010. Thus, the Town would join with other towns in the statewide effort to reach 20% of total statewide purchases by the end of 2010.

The Task Force held its initial organizational meeting In October, 2007. During the subsequent months through May, 2008, the Task Force reviewed the various options and met with potential providers. In June, 2008, it presented its recommendation for a supplier along with a higher target of 26% of total purchases to the Board of Selectmen who agreed to have the Town take a statewide leadership role with the higher purchase amount.

One of the other directives of the Task Force was to encourage residential and commercial entities to also sign up for either a 50% or 100% clean energy purchase so that the Town could further meet its goals and help garner solar panels for the Town. For each 100 residential sign-ups, the Town will receive a 2KwH solar panel.

During the several months of the Task Force's existence, the members also identified and agreed upon a number of other related functions which the Task Force could undertake on a continuing basis to encourage energy efficiency, energy conservation, and the purchase of electricity by individuals, businesses, and organizations from clean energy providers.

However, the Task Force determined that in order to undertake these functions and support a longer term approach to these efforts, it should be structured in a more permanent manner. To accomplish this structure, the Task Force is proposing to move from a Task Force to a Town Committee. The proposed name which the Task Force feels is more in keeping with the breadth of its new goals is the SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION.

The Task Force believes that its current title "ad hoc Clean Energy Task Force" infers a temporary status. Thus, the Task Force decided to drop these words from its title. In addition, the title Task Force infers work towards accomplishing only a specific task rather than a broader mission.

The Task Force then reviewed the Town Charter and identified various titles which have been used for its appointive boards. These include: District, Authority, Commission, Committee, and Board. The Task Force determined that a District or an Authority (except for Water and Sewer) inferred a more or less geographic connection which did not fit the clean energy mission. Thus, the common usage of the terms Commission, Committee, or Board appeared to be more relevant to the Task Force's purpose. Informal discussions with Town officials determined that the Charter did not restrict the terms Commission, Committee, or Board to specific types of appointive boards nor did they restrict the projected mission and objectives of the Task Force in any manner. Based on this information and discussion within the Task Force, the name SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION was selected.

With its new name, a statement of mission and objectives were prepared as follows:

Mission:

To identify, implement and support renewable energy use, energy efficiency and energy conservation programs in which Newtown's residents, businesses, organizations, and town agencies can participate.

To disseminate information relating to cost effective and environmentally conscious renewable energy use, energy efficiency, and energy conservation programs.

Furthermore, the SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION will support the efforts of Town elected officials, volunteers, and employees to identify and implement renewable energy use, energy efficiency, and energy conservation programs.

To support, develop, and organize any other such programs or innovations as recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

Objectives:

1. To encourage greater participation by the Town of Newtown residents, businesses, organizations, and governmental agencies in energy efficiency, energy conservation programs, and in purchasing and using renewable energy.
2. To promote and provide educational programs concerning energy efficiency, energy conservation and renewable energy.
3. To encourage residents, businesses, organizations, Town agencies and the Board of Education to undertake specific initiatives to make Newtown a "greener" community. Such steps would include but would not be limited to: reducing overall and peak electricity use, installation of smart meters, conducting energy audits on existing structures, incorporating and rewarding use of LEED standards for new and existing structures; encourage public transportation, ride sharing, bicycling and walking, planting more trees, developing local passive and active solar installations, geothermal systems, low impact hydroelectricity, and wind and landfill (methane) gas energy sources.
4. To enlist volunteers in the effort to promote energy efficiency, energy conservation, and renewable energy use. .
5. To explore ways to lower the Town's and Board of Education's overall energy cost.
6. To support efforts to increase the share of total Town of Newtown and Board of Education use of renewable energy for electricity purchases from its current 26% level.
7. To sign up businesses, organizations, and households for the state's Clean Energy Option so that the Town can earn and install more solar Photovoltaic panels.
8. To encourage school faculty to incorporate energy efficiency, energy conservation, and use of renewable energy in academic curricula
9. To develop and maintain a website for the SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION which can communicate ideas and issues related to energy efficiency, energy conservation, and the use of renewable energy.
10. To communicate SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION programs and efforts through the use of local media including community cable television channels and other outreach programs including an annual Earth Day Celebration.

Membership; terms of office:

The SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION shall consist of nine (9) members who are electors of the Town of Newtown appointed by the First Selectman with the approval of the Board of Selectmen. The members of the SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION shall serve terms of three (3) years with the initial appointments staggered so that the terms of three (3) members shall expire after one year, three (3) members after two (2) years and three (3) after three (3) years. No person shall be appointed to more than two (2) consecutive full terms. A full term shall mean appointment for a three (3) year term. Any vacancy in the membership of the Commission shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by the First Selectman with the approval of the Board of Selectmen. Minority representation shall exist as described in Section 4-20 in the Charter of the Town of Newtown. No more than three (3) members of the SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION shall have their terms expire in any one (1) calendar year.

Meetings and reports; rules and regulations:

The SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION shall meet monthly at least ten (10) times per year and such other times as the SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION may determine. A Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary shall be chosen by the SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION members. The SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION is empowered to adopt rules and regulations for putting into effect the provisions of this "article", which shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of the Town Charter. Such rules and regulations shall be filed with the Town Clerk.

The SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION shall annually prepare and transmit to the Legislative Council and the Board of Selectmen a report of its activities and recommendations for energy efficiency, energy conservation, and the use of renewable energy. Such report shall be due on the first day of October each year. Other reports may be requested from time to time by the Board of Selectmen or by the Legislative Council.

Receipt and disbursement of funds:

All funds received by the SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION from any source other than a specific gift or bequest, shall be placed in the custody of the Treasurer of the Town of Newtown to be held, administered, and disbursed by the Treasurer in a segregated account(s) which shall be known as the "Newtown SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION Fund" for the specific purposes identified in the mission of the SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION. This account shall be separate and distinct from all other Town accounts. Disbursements from the Fund shall be made on order of the SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION only, in compliance with the specific terms of the gifts, bequests, and receipts which make up the Fund. All checks drawn on the Fund shall be signed by both the Chairperson and Secretary of the SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION and countersigned by the Treasurer of the Town of Newtown.

Appropriations

The annual appropriation for the expenses of the SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION shall be pursuant to Section 6-20 of the Charter of the Town of Newtown upon application of the SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION. The SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION may request additional funds or appropriations. Such appropriations shall not exceed statutory allowances in Section 7-136 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut as amended nor may they exceed other limitations as set from time to time by the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut or as amended. For purposes of appropriation, the SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION shall be deemed a department.

The SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION will be organized and operate under Chapter 4 of the Charter of the Town of Newtown.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_