

***THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
COMMISSION***

Sustainable Energy Commission held a regular meeting Thursday, October 18, 2018 in shared meeting room 3 of the Municipal Center located at 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT 06470. Chairman Kathy Quinn called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Present: Kathy Quinn, Allen Adriani, Mark Sievel, Tom Snyad, Vanessa Villamil

Absent: Jeff Jorgenson, Graham Clifford, George Brown, David Stout

Also Present: Fred Hurley and Chuck Litty

Communications – None

Public Comments - None

Minutes – M. Sievel moved to approve the minutes of the 9/20/18 meeting. A. Adriani seconded, motion unanimously approved.

BUSINESS

Committee membership and accession plan – The board questioned if they should be the owners of Sustainable CT. It should be its own entity. There is only a portion of it that pertains to Sustainable Energy. They would contribute as other boards, commissions and departments would. M. Sievel moved to forward a letter to the First Selectman recommending that they appoint an adhoc committee to oversee the Sustainable CT effort. V. Villamil seconded, motion unanimously approved.

Apex solar proposal and solarize program recommendation – The commission agreed that as a commission they cannot endorse them, she can do it on her own. They also agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

New Project – Sandy Hook School Solar/fire houses: No update

Nunnawauk Meadows-solar: No update

ZREC for Community Center: F. Hurley reported that when they went to file the large or mediam ZREC, the project didn't have the sign off from Eversource including paying for the service so they do not qualify. He will file for a small ZREC which they are eligible for.

Possible ZREC for Stratford Hall: This is the same as the Community Center. If they put panels up, it would be a small ZREC.

Energy Savings program:

Riverside Road Senior Center – The vendor has completed its work at the Senior Center.

Library – This is being worked on.

Edmond Town Hall – K. Quinn reported that she has tried to work with Edmond Town Hall Board of Managers but they will not authorize the audit and are now not responsive when she reaches out to them.

New Construction Projects - Community Center – No update

Police Department – No update at this time. It is too early to look at solar.

General plan for schools: F. Hurley reported that the next big project is a lighting upgrade for the high school. They are going to upgrade all the boilers with high efficiency boilers.

Dashboard for web site (API keys): – No update

Sustainable CT: There were some towns that did make it but Newtown wasn't one of them.

Develop plan to reduce electric demand charge on town buildings: No update

Solomon Solar project/Windham: F Hurley provided (Attachment A) and explained that they received two proposals, one from Doosan and one from Direct Energy. Since then, the virtual net metering (VNM) they have been working on for the past 3 years came through. They will have the actual contract in the next day or so. Westport and Newtown did a joint PURA clarification of SB9 and have received 5 Mega Watts of VNM credits. Newtown will receive 2 and Westport 3.

Batchelder site potential for solar/community solar project: No update

Fuel Cell project and/or CHP (combined heat and power) discussion – As a result of the Solomon VNM Solar project this RFP is moot (Attachment A).

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

Municipal Energy Plan: No update

Energy Star Portfolio Manager: No update

Website: No update

Organic Recycling: There is a new store opening that will push the food scrap recycling program which will offer another avenue for residents to sign up and get the kit for the project.

Fracking Waste Ban: K. Quinn is working with R. Knapp.

Plastic Bag Reduction resolution sent to Ordinance Committee – This is still ongoing. The Ordinance committee needs to discuss this with Land Use.

The next meeting is November 15, 2018.

Having no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:53

Respectfully Submitted,
Arlene Miles, Clerk



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

October 18, 2018

**Results of 9/25/18 High School RFP for CHP Project
And the Impact of VNM**

There was one proposal that followed the proposal format and one counter proposal that chose not to respond to the current RFP.

The Doosan Proposal offered a guaranteed saving of \$.015 per KWH off whatever market rate was available from the utility at the time. In addition, there would be some thermal savings in hot water production but these were not estimated.

The Direct Energy proposal did not respond to the RFP as structured. Many of their observations I had agreed with in a phone conversation with their project engineer prior to the proposal deadline and had been lead to believe they would propose but with qualifications. They did not.

However, the RFP became a moot point after the fact, when the three year effort to gain VNM credit for the High School finally came to fruition. Based on our request to PURA for clarification of the application of VNM credit as authorized in this year's Senate Bill 9, VNM credits were granted initially at a rate that was worth approximately \$.03 per KWH.

Subsequent to that offer, which was competitive but not substantially superior with offers that may have come from an RFP, I restructured our existing application for VNM credit based on the electric load reduction from the proposed re-lamping to take advantage of current available credit. The credit authorized for Newtown became a net of \$.05784 per KWH. At this level, the cash savings, over the 25 year arrangement, will total \$4,207,225. This allows for system degradation over time with an initial year savings of \$182,196 and final year of \$159,422.

Our project (2MW) is coupled with the Town and BOE of Westport (3MW) to take the full 5MW project in Voluntown. This project, which you may remember was the only project that responded to our previous RFP for a fully permitted site waiting for available VNM credits. Our system will be constructed next construction season and available for generation some time in latter part of 2019.

This project represents useage of the last available VNM credits previously authorized by the State. We are the last project going thru the queue.

Perhaps of more significance long term than saving the Newtown taxpayer millions of dollars, is that this project reduces the High School carbon footprint for electricity by approximately 100%. No other project or project proposal does that. This still leaves the door open for more savings at the high school by a possible storage project to shave the demand peak and new high efficiency gas boilers as have been installed in other schools.