

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

Sustainable Energy Commission held a regular meeting Thursday, April 18, 2019 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, Vanessa Villamil, Barbara Donahue

Absent: George Brown, Tom Snayd, David Stout, Mark Sievel

Also Present: Fred Hurley, Chuck Litty, Elliott Luri

Communications – Earth day is April 27, 10am to 4pm at Newtown Middle School.

Public Comments – None

Minutes – A. Adriani moved to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2019 meeting. V. Villamil seconded, motion unanimously approved.

BUSINESS

Committee membership and accession plan – Zach Marchetti will be joining the commission

ZREC for Community Center, Stratford Hall and/or new Police Station – F. Hurley provided an update (Attachment A). At this point the applications have been accepted. After they review it, they will send the contract and what the actual assurance payment will be.

VNM solar project – Voluntown 2MW (AC) – See F. Hurley's report (Attachment A).

Batchelder site potential for solar/community solar project – See F. Hurley's report (Attachment A).

Energy Savings program:

Library & Edmond Town Hall – No update

New Construction Projects

Community Center – No update

Police Department – A. Adriani spoke with the engineer. They were running an air balance.

General plan for schools update – A. Adriani spoke with the Director of Facilities, Gino Faiella, about Sandy Hook School. He has the engineers on board and they are going to call the commissioning engineers and get them on board as well. They barely got gold and doesn't look like they followed up on the laundry list of items that needed to be addressed.

Sustainable CT – Program recommendation sent to First Selectman – K. Quinn met with the First Selectman. They had issues meeting the requirements for certain items and focused on bringing groups together. Instead of Sustainable CT maybe organize a Sustainable Newtown. The idea is to get all the groups on the sustainable concept together in one room and focus on Newtown as a group.

Develop plan to reduce electric demand charge on town buildings- This is a long term project. F. Hurley reported that after solar projects come to an end, they will start focusing on this.

Develop/update: Municipal Energy Plan, Web Site, Facebook page and Power Point Presentation – No update

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

Energy Star Portfolio Manager – No update

Organic Recycling/ School program – No update

General Recycling – Monday is an HRRRA meeting and glass is on the agenda. F. Hurley is also working on the ordinance trying to make it less restrictive and more flexible so if there are changes in the market, we do not have change the ordinance.

Plastic Bag Reduction resolution sent to Ordinance committee – It is still with the lawyers.

Next meeting is May 16, 2019

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Arlene Miles, Clerk



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

April 18, 2019

1. VNM –

The 2MW for the High School is still on track to be available by the end of the year. The vendor had been concerned about acquisition of panels but they have solved that problem and now have their full complement in hand.

An additional 2MW for (Reed 5-6 School, Middle School, Sandy Hook School, Head of Meadow School and Middle Gate School) is still contingent on legislative approval of expanding the VNM cap. We are already in the queue if the cap is expanded. We believe that we are very close to the head of the line, if not first, if there is more cap capacity. We lobbied members of the General Assembly on the 10th to add the expansion of the VNM cap to a bill to get passage. We also clarified with Eversource the legality that you can have both direct (Onsite PV) and indirect (VNM) on the same building. You just can't exceed overall consumption or double dip. Direct solar may provide 30% of a project's consumption and VNM can be applied to the 70% balance of consumption not provided by the onsite solar. Each 2 MW project produces approximately \$175,000 in annual net savings.

2. New Direct Solar Projects and ZREC Applications:

Stratford Hall was ruled out at this time for a solar project because there are still sensitivities on the integrity of the roof and the fact that the beneficiary is a for profit entity.

100 KW systems have been proposed and ZREC applications submitted for the new Community Center, new Police Station and the Hook & Ladder Fire House on Church Hill Road. The first two projects were submitted within the two week application window which ended Monday, April 15th at 1PM. The Hook & Ladder project wasn't proposed until the afternoon of the 15th but was submitted the next day. Because the solicitation was undersubscribed by 70%, the community center and police station are guaranteed a maximum funding each of 156 RECs annually at a unit price of \$100.74 for a potential annual payment of \$15,715.44 for 15 years or \$235,731.60 in total toward project costs. This benefit will be reassigned to the developer of the project when chosen. Finally, because of such a massive under subscription we also expect the Hook & Ladder project to be funded at the same level. All three projects should be operational by next fall. Total ZREC funding for these three projects would total \$707,194.80.

3. ISO Capacity Credits:

Applications have been filed to include Sandy Hook School, Sandy Hook Fire House, Sandy Hook Sub Station and Dodgingtown Fire House to the portfolio that already includes Reed School for eligibility this year for capacity credits offered by ISO (Independent System Operator) -New England for eligible or new electrical generation capacity being brought online. When the three new direct solar projects mentioned above (Community Center, Police Station and Hook & Ladder Fire House) are completed, they too will be added to our portfolio for capacity credit payments.

The question has been asked why we don't or we can't get capacity credits for all our projects. First, only the owner of the project meter generating the power is eligible for the credit. The Town doesn't own any of the VNM meters. Second, only recent or new projects are eligible. Our WWTP system that is almost 10 years old, for example, is not eligible because it pre-dates the program. When all the newer projects are online and eligible, this credit may average \$50,000 or more annually in direct cash payments to the Town.

4. Batchelder: Still in the remediation phase.

5. Other issues:

There is a major issue affecting the private sector development of solar generation, in CT, that has potentially a huge impact going forward. First, Eversource, with the support of PURA and DEEP are backing the tariff or purchase of electricity from private developers at what is claimed to be the avoided cost of \$.035 per KWH. However, Eversource has a Standard Offer for supply of \$.105 per KWH. Eversource doesn't do anything to increase supply but wants to tack on \$.07 per KWH for the electricity a private developer has generated and then charge the public \$.105 for that same KWH. The private developers feel they should be getting some part of that \$.07 that Eversource is keeping for itself for the electricity that the private developer is actually creating. In the old days, when Eversource was actually generating the electricity, they certainly charged more than \$.035 per KWH on your bill for supply.

The second issue is that Eversource was pushing the reduction of private development generation project contract to 7 years from the current 20 or 30 years. This by itself would make virtually all private solar development un-bankable and that would include financing from the State supported Green Bank.

By discouraging the development of private sector solar electrical generation located in CT, the economic development benefit of jobs, material purchases and local taxes are lost and absolutely nothing is done to reduce pressure on the "Congestion Charge" which is on every electrical customer bill, commercial or residential, public or private. The "Congestion Charge" will continue until a sufficient level of electrical generation capacity exists in CT.