

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
COMMISSION

The Sustainable Energy Commission held a regular meeting Thursday, May 16, 2019 in shared meeting room 3 of the Municipal Center located at 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT 6470.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kathy Quinn at 7:00pm.

Present: Chairman Kathy Quinn, Allen Adriani, George Brown (7:19pm), Barbara Donahue, Mark Sievel, Vanessa Villamil

Also Present: Fred Hurley, Chuck Litty, Zach Marchetti

Absent: Tom Snyder, Dave Stout

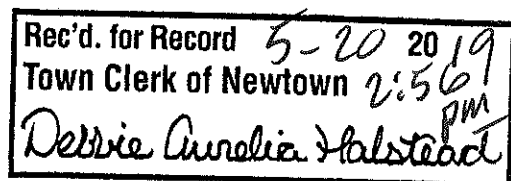
Communications: Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held at the highway dept. on Saturday, May 18. The CT Green Building Counsel letter to Gov. Lamont was discussed in detail. Power plants consume gas, they are not a source of leaking gas. The agreed upon contracts for offshore wind are more expensive than natural gas or other sources. Mr. Hurley suggested reducing the letter to the bolded material; saying if it's too long it will not be read. Ms. Donahue said that the commission can do their own letter. Ms. Quinn shared an article on offshore wind turbines (att.). Mr. Litty will email the Energy Conscious Blueprint Program, relative to financial incentives and also brief the commission on what he's learned about the program.

Public Comment: Eric Weiss was present to express interest in filling the vacancy on the commission. His background is in environmental public safety.

Acceptance of Minutes: Ms. Villamil moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of 4/18/19. Ms. Donahue seconded. All in favor.

Business: Discussion and possible action:

- a. **Committee Membership and succession plan – overall goals:** two residents interested in filling the commission vacancy were present.
- b. **ZREC for Community Center and new Police Station:** two applications were accepted by the state; the town is in the process of filling out the contractual arrangement with the state. These projects, from an incentive standpoint, are good to go. These are listed as 100KW projects. Mr. Hurley reported that Hook & Ladder is interested; a 100KW small ZREC has been filed.
- c. **VNM solar project – Voluntown 2MW (AC) – Credit for High School:** The updated PPA's are assigned. There is a more favorable, updated, VNM rate, 15 cents per KW. This will be built this summer; 2 MW will go toward the high school. The next projects will include the Middle School, Reed, Head 'O Meadow, Hawley and Sandy Hook, should additional legislation be approved.
- d. **Batchelder site potential for solar/community solar project:** Rob Sibley is spearheading the remediation of the property; this project is moving along. This will be an 18 month project. The state is interested in a solar field. An EDA grant is being looked into, to invest in the electrical infrastructure for the interconnection.
- e. **Energy Savings program:**
 - Library** – no update,
 - Edmond Town Hall** – no update.
 - New Construction projects – Community Center** – no update.
 - Police Department** – this is moving along. Mr. Hurley has a full size set of plans in the office. Mr. Litty volunteered to look over the plans.



General plan for schools – update: Mr. Adriani reported that Prism Energy expects to have a proposal, with recommendations, out for Head ‘O Meadow school on what will be done for energy savings. There has not been a lighting update in recent years. Mr. Litty said it may be more cost effective to do envelope improvements, rather than geothermal.

- f. **Sustainable CT:** Ms. Donahue spoke to Larry Jones, the lead AP on the Sandy Hook School project, about enhanced commissioning. Jim Dolan is the commissioning agent, out of OLA. There are specific requirements to earn points. She wants to know the dates the work was done and where the manual is, as it doesn’t look as though the work was done. Lead Gold was not achieved. She added the electric bills are very confusing, with deleted bills and times added. Mr. Adriani has emailed Mr. Dolan, with no response. Ms. Donahue will call Mr. Dolan for the information. If she doesn’t hear back from him she will call Larry Jones, the lead AP. Mr. Adriani will also speak to Gino Fiaella. Ms. Quinn talked about Sustainable Newtown (att.).
- g. **Develop plan to reduce electric demand charge on town buildings:** no update.
- h. **Develop/update: Municipal Energy Plan, Web Site, Facebook page and Power Point Presentation:** Ms. Quinn created a checklist to update the Facebook page, the website and power point presentations and work on the municipal energy plan with the goal of having information to apply to the POCD (Plan of Conservation & Development). (att.). Mr. Hurley can work on the columns as he will be conducting project analysis. Mr. Hurley said there is confusion on the reporting of direct solar.
- i. **Select month to take summer off:** There will be no meeting held in July, 2019.

Additional Items for discussion:

- 1. **Energy Star Portfolio Manager:** covered earlier in meeting.
- 2. **Organic Recycling – School program:** All systems are go on organic recycling; the custodians will be trained over the summer; parent helpers will be trained when school opens. There may possibly be a table for unopened foods. All four elementary schools will participate; Tiffany, from HRRRA will be going into third grade classes to educate them.
- 3. **General Recycling:** no update.
- 4. **Plastic Bag Reduction resolution:** A public hearing will be held in the council chamber on June 5, 2019, at 7:00p.m. (att.: information on paper bags)

Adjournment: Having no further business the regular meeting of the Sustainable Energy Commission at 8:11 p.m.

The next meeting will be held June 20, 2019.

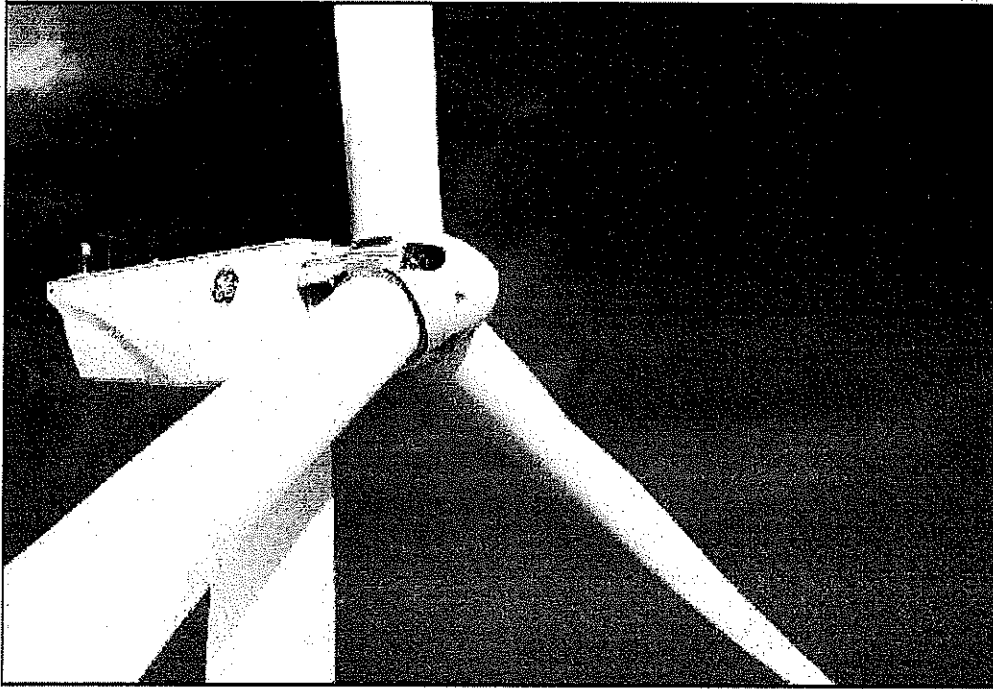
Att: Wind would give state new energy source article; K. Quinn checklist; Sustainable Newtown; Newtown Environmental Action Team (NEAT) Paper Bag Facts.

Susan Marcinek, clerk pro tem

Wind would give state new energy source

By Mark Pazniokas

CTMIRROR.ORG



File photo

The state House of Representatives voted in favor of a measure that would make Connecticut a reliable customer of electricity produced by offshore wind turbines.

The state House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly Tuesday for a bipartisan measure that proponents say would make Connecticut a reliable customer of electricity produced by offshore wind turbines, providing a foundation for a renewable-energy source that could one day match the output of the aging Millstone nuclear power station.

The vote came less than a week after a bitterly partisan overnight fight over a \$15 minimum wage, underscoring that renewable energy is one of the issues that can unite Democrats and Republicans in an era of polarized politics. Polling shows a majority of voters in both parties support renewables, and lawmakers say that is especially true in New England.

The bill passed on a vote of 134-10 by the House and was sent to the Senate. It is supported by the administration of Gov. Ned Lamont, which has supported investments intended to make the port of New London a major staging area for the hundreds of turbines expected to rise from the federally controlled seabed off the coast of southern New England.

Connecticut has lagged behind its neighbors in committing to wind, but energy developers showed confidence in a regional growing market for wind power as they bid a record \$405 million in December for federally administered leases in the ocean waters east of Block Island and south of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket.

"This legislation sends an unmistakable signal that Connecticut is poised for historic investment in

offshore wind,” said Katie Dykes, the commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. “I applaud the legislature’s support for this bill, and here at DEEP we are looking forward to implementing this policy once it secures final passage.”

If passed and signed into law as expected, Dykes would be required within 14 days to begin the process of soliciting bids from wind power products for as much as 2,000 megawatts, the output of Millstone. But the measure also recognizes the current limits of wind: It sets a goal of 2030 to reach that milestone.

“This is an opportunity that we cannot squander, and the growing, unified momentum behind this bill shows just how important this is to Connecticut,” Lamont said.

Rep. David Arconti, D-Danbury, the co-chair of the Energy and Technology Committee, said the unusual 14-day directive was included to ensure that the state acts before a federal tax credit expires at the end of the year.

“We’re not sure if it will be renewed, so we want our state to be able to take advantage of the federal tax credit on offshore wind and get the best price possible,” Arconti said in a briefing conducted with the ranking Republicans on the committee, Sen. Paul Formica, of East Lyme, and Rep. Charles Ferraro, of West Haven.

Millstone’s two reactors are licensed to operate until 2035 and 2045, with the possibility of extensions. But Millstone’s owner, Dominion, has repeatedly raised questions about the plant’s ability to continue to compete in a market driven by cheaper natural gas. The loss of Millstone, by far the single largest source of carbon-free electricity in southern New England, would set back the state’s efforts to meet its goals for reducing greenhouse emissions.

Lawmakers skirted the issue of climate change during a brief debate, instead focusing on the need to embrace what appears to be a fast-maturing segment of the power industry. While Connecticut has changed its energy procurement rules to stabilize the profitability of Millstone, the nuclear plant is only a bridge to the future, Formica said.

“It’s important that we don’t get caught in 2030, should Millstone decide to go down,” Ferraro said. “We don’t want to get caught having to replace without a plan.”

The bill requires the state to develop practices for minimizing the impact to wildlife and commercial fisheries, with bidders required to offer mitigation plans. Bidders would be required to pay the prevailing wage on the projects.

Ten Republicans voted no, but nearly five times as many supported passage

Rep. Mary Mushinsky, D-Wallingford, an environmentalist who is the longest-serving member of the House, said the vote reflects that there generally is a pragmatic and non-partisan approach to renewable energy in the northeast and especially in Connecticut, which sits at the end of natural gas pipelines and hydro-electric transmission lines, and where electricity is expensive.

The debate in Washington D.C. is more focused on the off-shore drilling of oil, not the promotion of off-shore wind, Mushinsky said.

Formica said the Energy and Technology Committee generally has been non-partisan, both under its previous co-chairs, former Rep. Lonnie Reed and former Sen. Paul Doyle, and now under Arconti and Sen. Norm Needleman, D-Essex.

CHECK LIST FOR PRESENTATIONS

<u>ACTION ITEM</u>	<u>WEB</u>	<u>FP</u>	<u>PP</u>	<u>MEP</u>	<u>POCD</u>
SOLAR INSTALLS	+api key	X	X	X	X
Landfill	1.3 MW (DC)	1.716,203 kwh output (startup year)			
Reed School	618 KW	680,700			
Middle School	179 KW	204,948			
WWTP	95 KW	134,000			
P&R Garage	100 KW	117,700			
Animal Shelter	18 KW	17,281			
S.H. School					
S.H. Firehouse					
Dodgingtown FH					
Comm. Center					
Police Station					
<i>Hook + Ladder</i>					
V.N.M.					
ENERGY RED. /	X/X	X/X	X/X	X/X	X/X
DEMAND RED.					
High School					
Middle School					
Reed School					
Hawley					
Sandy Hook					
Middle Gate					

<u>ACTION ITEM</u>	<u>WEB</u>	<u>FP</u>	<u>PP</u>	<u>MEP</u>	<u>POCD</u>
ENERGY RED. /	X/X	X/X	X/X	X/X	X/X
DEMAND RED.					
Head O'Meadow					
Municipal Center					
WWTP					
Public Works					
Edmond Town Hall					
Library					
Multi Purpose Bldg.					
Community Center (new)					
Police Station (new)					
ELECTRIC VEHICLES /					
CHARGING STATIONS	X /X	X /X	X /X	X/ X	X/X
PORTFOLIO MANAGER				X	
RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS	X	X	X		
COMMERCIAL PROGRAMS	X	X	X		
USEFUL LINKS	X				
SUSTAINABLE NEWTOWN	X	X	X		X

WEB-WEB SITE, FB – FACE BOOK, PP – POWER POINT, MEP – MUNICIPAL ENERGY PLAN, POCD – PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

SUSTAINABLE NEWTOWN

TOPICS:

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS, REDEVELOP BROWN FIELDS

PRESERVE & PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES

DYNAMIC AND RESILIENT PLANNING – INCORPORATE INTO POCD

CLEAN TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS INCLUDING BIKE AND WALKING TRAILS

INCORPORATE HEALTH NETWORKS AND SENIOR GROUPS

MUNICIPAL ENERGY PLAN

WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING (INCLUDING ORGANICS & PLASTICS)

ORGANIZATIONS:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LAND USE DEPT.

LEGISLATIVE COMM.

NEWTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION TEAM

FOREST ASSOCIATION

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.

LIONS CLUB

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SOCIAL SERVICES

INLAND WETLAND COMM.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMM.

CONSERVATION COMM.

PARKS & REC DEPT.

HEALTH DEPT.

PLANNING & ZONING

TROUT UNLIMITED

ROTARY CLUB

POOTATUCK WATER ASSOC.

SENIOR CENTER

LAKES ZOAR & LILLINONAH AUTH.

Newtown Environmental Action Team (NEAT)

Paper Bag Facts:

1. 10 billion paper bags are used per year in the United States.
2. Paper bags emit 70% more emissions during manufacturing than do plastic bags.
3. It takes 8 times more gasoline to transport them (as they are that much heavier than plastic).
4. It takes 4 times more fuel to manufacture them than to make plastic bags.
5. Paper bags actually have a higher carbon footprint than do plastic bags due to the increased fuel used in their manufacturing and transportation.
6. It takes an enormous amount of water to manufacture the pulp from which the paper is made. In addition, 50 times more water pollutants are generated than in making plastic.
7. We cut down 14 million trees per year to manufacture paper bags. Many of these trees are not replanted, and those that are take decades to grow large enough to help absorb the carbon emissions as efficiently as did the mature trees.
8. Paper bags are manufactured using chemicals that leach into our air and water when they biodegrade.
9. We can recycle each bag only twice before it begins breaking down.
10. It takes even more energy to recycle them than to manufacture them.
11. They do not break down any faster in landfills than do plastic bags, as the conditions are far from ideal. They are also larger than plastic bags and therefore take up more space in landfills.

**There are 10 districts in Connecticut to date that have plastic bag bans. Of those, 7 are hybrid bans (meaning they include a fee on paper bags). The other 3 districts are currently working toward adopting a paper fee in the near future. **

Newtown Environmental Action Team (NEAT)

Single-Use Plastic Bag Facts:

1. 100 billion plastic bags are used per year in the United States.
2. ½ billion are used per year in Connecticut alone.
3. Millions are used per year in Newtown.
4. The average lifespan of a plastic bag is 12 minutes.
5. Plastic bags biodegrade – break down into tiny little pieces called microplastics that are eaten by plankton, which is eaten by fish, which is then eaten by us. These microplastics last virtually forever in our environment.
6. They harm over 250 different marine and other animals, including whales, birds, seals, sea turtles and various kinds of fish. The animals starve because their stomachs fill with plastic.
7. Recycling them slows down and damages the recycling machines.
8. They get into landfills and oceans – scientists think that by the year 2050 there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish!
9. When they are incinerated, as is our Newtown trash, the toxins from the chemicals they are manufactured with go into the air for us to breathe.
10. Plastic bags are made from petroleum, a non-renewable energy source. It is estimated that about 12 million barrels of oil are used to make the plastic bags we use in the U.S. per year.
11. There are several floating plastic garbage heaps in our oceans, and they are growing every day. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch or Gyre, which floats between Hawaii and California, is twice the size of Texas. The North Atlantic Gyre, located in the Atlantic Ocean off the North American coast, is the one to which Connecticut and other east-coast states contribute.

**** Countries that have single-use plastic bag bans: The United Kingdom, Australia, China, India, Chile, Kenya, South Africa, and many more. In the United States: all of California and Hawaii, also cities and towns in Missouri, Idaho, Arizona, Wisconsin, Indiana, Florida, Massachusetts, and 10 towns in Connecticut. ****