

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

Sustainable Energy Commission held a regular meeting Thursday, February 20, 2020, 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, Mark Sievel, Allen Adriani, Vanessa Villamil, George Brown, Erik Weiss, Zach Marchetti, David Stout (arrived 7:10)

**Absent:** Tom Snayd

**Also Present:** Director of Public Works Fred Hurley, Bob Gerbert, Chair of the CIP Committee Board of Ed - Dan Delia

**Communications** – K. Quinn distributed an article from the January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Newtown Bee which provided information about the Connecticut Green Bank’s new initiative “Charge Up CT Buildings”. (Att. A.) The program offers businesses who use the C-PACE program an opportunity to get a free electric vehicle charging station. She asked that members share this information with any they may know of who is working on a commercial project. K. Quinn then told members about the Home Energy Solutions program which is an energy assessment for homes. She explained that some of the work is done at the time of the inspection such as light bulb replacement and sealing of minor leaks. The cost is \$75. More information can be found on energizect.com. B. Gerbert recommended scheduling the assessment when home owners are ready to spend money on the recommended changes to take full advantage of offered discounts.

**Public Comments** – none.

**Acceptance of Minutes:** M. Sievel moved to amend the minutes of the 1/16/2020 meeting to add that Allen Adriani was voted in as Vice Chair and to make a correction under the section *Discussion with Robert Gerbert regarding the schools and energy savings measures and indoor air Quality issues* to correct from “R. Gerbert explained that they have done one off air quality tests when a concern came up” to “R. Gerbert explained that they have done air quality tests when a concern came up” and to note that there was an official report of indoor air quality. A. Adriani seconded. All in favor.

## **BUSINESS**

**C-Power Proposal** – F. Hurley began by explaining that some things are already available through C-Power via the master agreement with the town, however other firms are also interested in assisting with the demand study. F. Hurley recommended that a small sub-group of 3 be put together to craft the RFP. He then talked about funding. Based upon demand and other factors the group decided to begin the pilot with the High School, Middle School and Municipal Center. F. Hurley will contact C-Power.

**Discussion with Robert Gerbert regarding the schools and energy saving measures and Indoor Air Quality issues, recycling** – Allen Adriani began by telling everyone that he reached out to Dan Delia to discuss opportunities for the Sustainable Energy Commission to work with the schools. Mr. Delia noted how hard B. Gerbert has been working and explained that they are working together for the betterment of the town. K. Quinn told everyone the idea of forming a sub-committee to address school building related issues. F. Hurley explained that these types of issues are first addressed at the staff level and recommended possibly having liaisons. A. Adriani said that he and D. Delia discussed a periodic walk-thru of the schools to look at equipment and help plan for the CIP. B. Gerbert reported on the recycling at the Sandy Hook School. The kids are getting better every day and the next step will be to roll-out to other schools. Preliminary data showed after all lunch waves were completed there was one 5-gallon pail of liquid collected and between 8 – 10 bags of trash which is a reduction of one-half.

**Reusable bags** – M. Sievel displayed options for a reusable bag which included detailed full-color printing and less elaborate one color prints. V. Villamil recommended having 80% printed on the bags in reference to the town's 80% reduction in its carbon footprint. The group discussed the budget and number of bags to order.

**Information Sheet for Building Dept.** – K. Quinn said she would like to put together an information sheet that would be available at the town building department for new construction mostly to direct people to energizect.com. This information could also be available on the website. F. Hurley recommended adding information regarding C-Pace and for a meeting with Economic and Community Development to discuss options for distribution of this information. E. Weiss recommended creating a program to recognize businesses who take energy efficiency measures. Recognition of the business on websites and social media would work as free marketing for the business.

**ZREC for Community Center, new Police Station and Hook & Ladder Fire House** – F. Hurley informed everyone that direct solar projects for Newtown Hook & Ladder, the Community Center and Police department are all in the works. Newtown Hook & Ladder will most likely end up with a roof mount.

**VNM solar project – (Griswold) 2MW (AC)** - Public Works Director, F. Hurley distributed his update for the meeting. (Att. B)

**VNM new 2 MW (AC) system – Credit for High School (Hampton)** - (att B) F. Hurley began by telling the group that the first 2 megawatts in Jackson and Sherman are live and producing energy. It is expected the high school will see VNM credits by this June. He explained that he has told the Finance boards it will take time for the VNM credits to balance with the payments that need to be made. The second 2 megawatts have been tested and should be operation in a few weeks and will pick up the Middle School, Head O'Meadow, Reed (portions not solar), and the Sandy Hook (portions not solar) and Hawley.

**Electric Vehicles – charging stations – RFP this spring** - K. Quinn confirmed with F. Hurley that he will be looking at an RFP in the springtime.

**Energy Savings program:**

**Community Center / Senior Center** – No update.

**Police Dept.** – new – No update.

**Develop/update: Municipal Energy Plan, Web Site, Facebook page and Power Point Presentation. Incorporate demand reduction and Energy Star Portfolio Manager** – G.

Brown asked if there was a student available at the high school who could assist with design and maintenance on [gogreennewtown.com](http://gogreennewtown.com). The group discussed that this could either be a senior project or community service for a student. F. Hurley recommended that the Sustainable Energy information be housed on the town website where it may be possible for more than one person to update. The group discussed the option of keeping the GoGreenNewtown URL and routing to and using the town website. K. Quinn will follow-up with the Town Clerk's office.

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED**

**Organic Recycling – School program** – F. Hurley told the group that the food scrapes program continues to expand. The town is looking into possibly of setting up a compost program at the transfer station in an effort to eliminate the trucking costs of shipping the scraps to a compost location.

**General Recycling** – F. Hurley reported that the town is buying extra cans for glass recycling to get them out of the recycling stream to prevent contamination. The glass will be brought to a manufacturing facility that makes concrete blocks.

The conversation rolled into procurements and F. Hurley updated the group that there are long-term contracts for electricity that will eventually drop down the kilowatt cost per hour to 7.2 cents. The town did well on oil prices.

**Outline Sustainable Newtown Program** – No update.

**Batchelder site for future solar installation / meter to be installed** – (att B) F. Hurley told the group that the project is accelerating because of a ZREC auction in May. There are 3 activities taking place: filing a VNM application, interconnection agreement with Eversource, and applying for the ZREC.

Next meeting is March 19, 2020.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned by M. Sievel and seconded by V. Villamil at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Chiappetta, Clerk

## Free EV Charging Stations For Qualified Commercial Properties

ROCKY HILL — The Connecticut Green Bank has launched "Charge Up CT Buildings," a new initiative that offers free electric vehicle charging stations to commercial property owners who use Connecticut Green Bank C-PACE financing to improve the energy efficiency of their building.

Property owners who apply for C-PACE financing by May 15 may be eligible for this limited time promotion. Property owners are encouraged to contact the Green Bank early to start the application process.

C-PACE (Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy) is an innovative financing tool that allows building owners to access 100 percent financing for energy improvements, realize positive cash flow immediately, and create more comfortable, efficient buildings. Hundreds of property owners across Connecticut have already taken advantage of C-PACE to finance energy-saving upgrades and Charge Up CT Buildings offers another incentive to attract new property owners to learn about the benefits of C-PACE.

A broad range of properties can benefit from this initiative, including retail spaces, nonprofit organizations, houses of worship, recreational facilities, restaurants, manufacturers, hotels, and other non-residential properties. C-PACE addresses the needs of businesses of all sizes — from owner-occupied buildings to portfolio real estate owners like Spinnaker Real Estate Partners, who the Green Bank recently profiled.

Through Charge Up CT Buildings, building owners will not

only make their buildings more modern and attractive, but their customers, tenants, and employees will be able to charge up and enjoy the benefits of electric vehicles. An EV charging station can help owners and businesses to distinguish their property from others, showing leadership and commitment to sustainability.

The number of electric vehicles on the road in Connecticut continues to grow year-over-year. With more than 13,000 electric vehicles registered to date, and a projected 125,000 to 150,000 vehicles by 2025, there is growing demand for more electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

This creates an opportunity for property owners to offer their customers or employees EV recharging as an additional amenity.

"Connecticut Green Bank is committed to promoting the growth of electric vehicles in Connecticut, and that includes supporting the development of a more resilient EV charging infrastructure that is suited to handle increasing demand," said Bryan Garcia, President and CEO of Connecticut Green Bank.

"We see this initiative as having many benefits to building owners, tenants, employees, and customers — as well as to our communities," he said. "Property owners who choose to host electric vehicle charging stations are not only doing something positive to promote and grow their businesses, they're also doing something positive for Connecticut and playing an important role in building a cleaner, greener, and more pros-

perous future where our state has a robust electric vehicle charging infrastructure and where we are all less reliant on fossil fuels."

To qualify for a free EV charging station, energy saving projects must utilize at \$150,000 in Green Bank C-PACE financing with at least 20 percent of the total project costs going toward non-renewable measures. Larger projects may be eligible to receive up to three electric vehicle charging stations. Connecticut Green Bank's C-PACE team will work with building owners to determine if their project is eligible for the C-PACE program and Charge Up CT Buildings incentive.

"This initiative simultaneously addresses two of the state's largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions: transportation and commercial/industrial properties," said Mackey Dykes, vice president, financing programs at Connecticut Green Bank. "Through Charge Up CT Buildings, the Green Bank is reinvesting in the buildings of property owners who use C-PACE financing."

Mr Dykes said the cost of the EV charging stations offered through this initiative will be offset by future interest income generated by the C-PACE financing.

"And by repurposing this future income into an electric vehicle charging station, these properties will create an even bigger impact on reducing emissions," he said. "Not only is the Green Bank enabling building owners to take control of their energy costs and save money, we're also helping them to position their business and our community for future success."

Building owners are invited to an open house about Charge Up CT Buildings on Wednesday, March 25, at J Roos, 243 State Street, North Haven. Preregistration is required; visit link at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/charge-up-ct-building-owner-open-house-tickets-86918556743?aff=PR>

For more information about the initiative, visit [chargeupct.com](http://chargeupct.com) or call 866-324-0099.

*The Bee*

1-24-20

## Attachment B

4 TURKEY HILL ROAD  
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT 06470  
FAX (203) 426-9968



### **TOWN OF NEWTOWN** PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

FREDERICK W. HURLEY, JR  
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR  
(203) 270-4300

2/20/20 Update

#### VNM World:

The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> MW fields (Jackson and Sherman) continue in operation with paperwork being filed to get credits flowing from Eversource.

The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> MW fields (Sydney Project) are having their witness test with Eversource today. We may have commercial operation by March 1<sup>st</sup>. That will put our overall provision of electricity for town and school uses by alternate energy at 85 – 90%. The project that follows would at least temporarily get us to 100%

Batchelder is accelerating because there is a ZREC auction in May. We are attempting to at least get a verbal commitment from DEEP that we can remediate a portion of the property and begin the solar farm while the balance of the property is worked on. The five potential beneficial accounts we have identified are the new Community Center, Ambulance Garage, Library, Edmond Town Hall and Middlegate School. This would effectively have covered every building, for now, except Botsford and Hawleyville Fire Houses, which have older roofs. We are proceeding with filing a request for a study of the interconnection needs by Eversource and an application for another MW of VNM credits. The Town will cover the cost to hold the ZREC and any other filing costs until a developer comes onboard to build the system and provide a PPA.

#### Direct Solar World:

The PPA contract is still being processed. The issue with ground mount versus roof top at Hook & Ladder seems to be clarified. That is yet to be finalized but it's leaning toward roof top.

## Energy Procurement:

Heating fuel and diesel came in well under budget projections at \$1.86 and \$1.83 per gallon respectively for next year. Electricity pricing will be steady but dropping thru 2023 from \$.087 to \$.072 per KWH. Natural gas offered by the utility is still less than any 3<sup>rd</sup> party can offer so we continue on market rate.

## Solid Waste:

The movement toward reduction of glass in the waste and recycling stream will accelerate beginning this summer. The Town will be doing drop off of glass starting sometime in the summer at the Transfer Station. It is hoped this will begin to reduce the contamination in the various recycling shipments and raise their resale value. Part of this positive development is based on a manufacturing facility opening this summer in CT that would take HRRA glass.

## Food Waste Recycling:

To reduce costs we are investigating the possible creation of a compost facility on the transfer station site to eliminate our current 3<sup>rd</sup> party shipping. There may be a 3<sup>rd</sup> party circuit rider who will manage multi town compost piles as well as handling State permit requirements.