

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Public Works Department, 4 Turkey Hill Road, Newtown
Thursday, July 20, 2023
Called to order at 7:03PM

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

Present: Kathy Quinn, Derek Pisani, George Brown, Damian Bednarz, Carol Walsh

Absent: David Stout, Robert Bohn, Mike Oristaglio, Allen Adriani

Also Present: Director of Public Works Fred Hurley(Via telephone), BOE Director of Facilities John Barlow

Communications – None

Public Comments – None

Acceptance of Minutes – G. Brown moved to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2023 meeting. D. Pisani seconded, all in favor.

Update to Smart Power residential storage program – C. Walsh and K. Quinn had a zoom meeting with SmartPower about doing more outreach.

Eversource Municipal Programs – K. Quinn informed members that she attended a webinar earlier in July which was taped. She asked members to watch it so they can discuss the possibility of utilizing these programs

Sub-Committees

EV Charging stations/10K Grant – The EV charging station at Edmond Town Hall is moving along.

Energy Storage – No update

Portfolio Manager – M. Oristaglio and K. Quinn have been working on the Portfolio Manager. They will be doing quarterly updates.

Status of solar projects

Buy All Program– Fred Hurley reported that there are still no answers from the state or Eversource for any of the 4 projects. The new applications are due in August. The two small projects are moved up to second and fifth. It is the bigger projects that are in question. An inquiry has been sent to Eversource. G. Brown moved to authorize F. Hurley to resubmit the applications for Buy All Program and use best judgement and cost effective solution that will meet the original intent. D. Bednarz seconded, all in favor.

Off site 1MW VNM – No update

Other Solar Opportunities, Batchelder Site, Hawley School, High School Auditorium - J. Barlow explained that Hawley School will have the majority of the roof replaced and good for solar but there is a wing that has not had a roof replacement. The High School Auditorium roof warranty runs out in 5 years.

School Updates:

Hawley – J. Barlow reported that earlier in July someone smashed the telephone pole at Hawley School and broke the conduit. The pole was slated to be replaced by Frontier on July 19 and they called and said, we have storm damage and cannot replace the pole and pushed it off until July 27th. Eversource has committed to August 2 for permanent power. The switch gear has been received and installed. Potentially after the contractor is done with the project they are looking to replace the 6 air handling units. They are going to move forward with that in September when the project is closed out. They opted to go with heat pumps instead of conventional air conditioning for the rebates.

They issued a PO for Trane for the replacement of the units at the High School. There was a rebate for that as well.

There was a CIP approval for indoor air quality improvements at Newtown Middle School but there are some concerns. Hawley was an \$8 million project and the Middle School is 3 times larger. They are looking at design build options rather than spend money on engineering.

Town Building Strategic Plan Committee – No update

Municipal Energy Plan – No update

Social Media – D. Bednarz talked about using the town email list serve for email blast. At the end of September is National Climate Week which is an ideal date to mention our town's clean energy success as well as highlight some links where residents can learn more about clean energy purchases.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

Changes to recycling/composting efforts – No update

Lighting at FFH – No update

Next meeting is September 21, 2023

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Arlene Miles, Clerk