

Town of Newtown, CT

3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Sustainable Energy Commission held a regular meeting Thursday, June 15, 2017 in shared meeting room 3 of the Municipal Center located at 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT 06470.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Kathy Quinn at 7:05p.m.

Present: Chairman Kathy Quinn, Allen Adriani, Graham Clifford, Jeff Jorgenson, Mark Sievel, Barbara Toomey

Absent: George Brown, Dave Stout, Tom Snayd

Also Present: Fred Hurley, Chuck Litty.

Communications: Ms. Quinn shared a news article from the Danbury News Times relative to the benefits of shared solar in (att.). Also shared was a document from the Western Connecticut Council of Governments on electric vehicle statistics (att.)

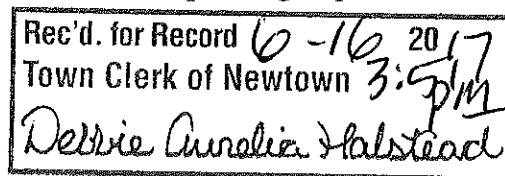
Public Comments: none.

Acceptance of Minutes: Mr. Clifford moved to accept the minutes of 5/18/17. Ms. Quinn seconded. All in favor.

Business

Discussion and possible action:

- a. **Status of Landfill Solar Project:** The construction site manager has worked out where the material will be staged. Eversource has to identify where the connection point for the system will be.
- b. **Reed School solar project:** They are in the process of scheduling the testing period by Eversource to accept the system.
- c. **New Project – Sandy Hook School Solar:** The RFP is out with a call back date of July 6. It is a 210 KW AC system. We applied for a medium ZREC of \$70 to be assigned to developers.
- d. **Solomon Solar project:** Mr. Hurley is trying to see where we're at with all the bills.
- e. **MLS Group – Nunnawauk Meadows – solar:** this has been negotiated down to 9.5 cents/kw; trees would need to be removed and P&Z would need to approve the site.
- f. **Batchelder site – potential for solar:** The town is meeting with contract developers, there is one more round next week. They will be involved in the final remediation and development of the site. The economic development group with the state wants to see a



generation of something; solar has been proposed. They are looking at a 2-3 MW system on site.

g. Grant Funds

EV charging station: The final bid is in and will be awarded soon. The town provides the location and the power to the EV charging station; the company handles the financials and installation. Smart Point has smart technology.

New Bright Ideas 10K Grant: The commission discussed this grant relative to the Home Energy Solution program but ultimately decided to bank the grant for something else.

h. Energy Savings program update:

Public Works – this will be for electrical and lighting only; a final count is being done now.

Library – no update.

Head O' Meadow – no update; numbers are being re-done.

New Construction Projects:

Community Center: the commission reviewed the meeting of June 13, when they met with the architects and construction manager to hear the proposal on the design of the community center. Some topics discussed were solar, geothermal, cost to heat/cool, size of mechanical rooms, passive solar, and the pool. The commission came up with a list of items for Mr. Hurly to discuss with the construction manager (att.).

General plan to use Eversource programs for remaining buildings: A list of the four remaining schools, the High School, the Middle School, Reed and Hawley, with identified projects, has been sent to Gino Fiaella for review. There are three vendors the town has been using and one vendor the schools have been using.

i. Microgrid feasibility study: The final report from Celtic is coming; storage will be further explored once the report is in.

j. Street Lighting: The RFP will be out next week. The cost of the town to buy the streetlights, based on depreciated value, is less than \$200,000. Color rendition is included in the RFP.

k. Power Energy Management System (Panoramic/Direct Energy): no update.

l. High School Sustainability Program – funding possibilities: no update.

m. Dashboard for website (API keys): Mr. Clifford shared data updates in real time, with the wastewater treatment plant and the middle school included. The report will include fun facts and will be on the town website at a future time.

- n. **Request re-appropriation of remaining budget funds to next fiscal year:** Ms. Quinn moved to re-appropriate the approximate \$4,700 remaining budget to the next fiscal year. Ms. Toomey seconded. All in favor.

Additional Items for discussion:

1. **Sustainable CT:** Mr. Litty reported the first draft of actions are being reviewed. They are making progress and he will know more next week.
2. **Newtown Forward:** This group is looking to start a Newtown chapter of the Citizens Climate Lobby.
3. **Municipal Energy Plan:** no update.
4. **Energy Star Portfolio Manager:** Ms. Quinn reported that almost all needed data is in; she will find out how to pull reports.
5. **Web Site:** no update.
6. **Organic Recycling:** There are over 570 participants in the program. The large bin at the transfer station gets emptied twice a week. Mr. Hurley spoke about tying Newtown High School with restaurants in Sandy Hook as a commercial demo project.
7. **Fracking Waste:** item not discussed.

Adjournment: Having no other business, Mr. Adriani moved that the Sustainable Energy Commission adjourn their regular meeting at 8:49p.m. Mr. Sievel seconded. All in favor.

The next regular meeting will be held on July 20, 2017.

Attachments: Danbury News Times article, 6/15/17; WestCog EV statistics; list for Caldwell & Walsh.

Submitted, Susan Marcinek, clerk

NEWS

ENVIRONMENT

Report: Solar could power state's economy

By Bill Cummings

HARTFORD — An expanded community solar program in Connecticut could produce \$374 million in economic benefits and create thousands of new jobs in the first year, a new report says.

"The message is clear: over the next few months there is a real opportunity to bring the benefits of shared solar to Connecticut," said Sean Garren, Northeast director for Vote Solar, an advocacy group that produced the report.

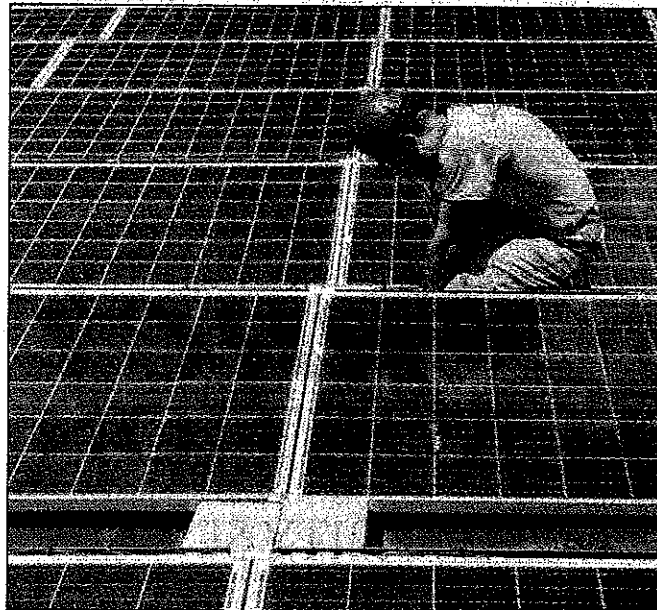
Community or shared solar involves erecting rows of solar panels on 10 to 15 acres to generate electricity. The clean power is sold to customers who may live far away from the arrays at reduced rates.

But despite being a relatively simple concept, shared solar has proven difficult to implement on a large scale in Connecticut. By contrast, Massachusetts has at least 60 shared solar projects in the pipeline or under way.

Connecticut has begun a pilot program to test shared solar but it's scope is limited to producing only six megawatts of electricity. Solar advocates want the state to expand that cap to at least 200 megawatts.

"We settled for a pilot," said state Rep. Jonathan Steinberg, D-Westport. "And now, two years after that passed, we still have not awarded bids. It's having a chilling effect on solar in Connecticut."

The state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is now reviewing proposed solar projects in Bridgeport, Shelton, Groton, Bloomfield,



Logan Cyrus / The Washington Post

Mike Catanzaro, panel installer at Accelerate Solar, finishes installing electrical wiring at a solar array he recently installed at a job site in East Charlotte, N.C.

Thompson, Waterbury, Uncasville, Dayville and Montville.

Those ventures seek to produce 16.7 megawatts of solar power — 10 megawatts more than can be authorized.

Jobs and taxes

The Vote Solar report projects that an expanded shared solar program, based on generating 200 megawatts of power, could create 2,578 jobs by 2018 and pump \$81 million into local tax coffers.

"While Connecticut legislators work to resolve state budget challenge over the next few months, here is a major opportunity to more than double its solar workforce through a community solar program," Garren said.

Vote Solar noted 75 percent of the state's businesses and residents cannot directly access solar power

by attaching panels to rooftops, including neighborhoods where trees block sunlight or those who rent and do not control the rooftop.

Shared solar concentrates arrays in one location and sends the power to a group of preselected customers. Under the state's pilot, customers receive a credit from United Illuminating or Eversource that reduces their monthly electric bill.

Pilot projects now under consideration by DEEP include a large solar array at 380 Horace Ave. in Bridgeport capable of producing 1.8 megawatts of power and providing power for 550 customers.

A second proposal seeks to build a 7.5 acre solar array within the Shelton Transfer Station at 866 River Road capable of producing 1.6 megawatts of power. The developer

plans to provide power to 200 customers who are eligible for energy assistance.

Renewed push

The Vote Solar report drew support from legislators who vowed to again push to expand the state's shared solar program.

"This program gives real access to solar with all of its benefits to many more consumers," said state Rep. Cristin McCarthy-Vahey, D-Fairfield.

But McCarthy-Vahey noted the General Assembly "struggled this year with creating a bridge from nuclear power to a clean energy future. Community solar mitigates this challenge by dramatically accelerating along the road to renewables."

Stienberg said expanding shared solar has faced opposition from the power companies which favor the status quo and legislators worried about potentially unstable solar prices.

"It created enough uncertainty," Steinberg said, referring to the opposition. "I thought it could be resolved."

Claire Coleman, climate and energy attorney at Connecticut Fund for the Environment, said Connecticut is missing out on economic and environmental benefits other states are enjoying.

"Many other states already benefit from community solar programs," Coleman said. "It is time for Connecticut's leaders to stand up for a clean energy future that will bring both economic and health benefits to Connecticut residents."

Electric Vehicle(EV) Facts

1. Very few EVs on road in CT or our Region but we are state leader
2. 38% of CT EVs are with our Region.
3. Far fewer CS per EV in WestCOG than rest of state
4. Both geographic and municipal gaps for CS in Region

	WestCOG	Rest of CT	Notes
Percent Hybrids (e.g. Prius)	3.0%	2.7%	2011-2015 CT DMV data
Percent EVs (e.g. Volt)	0.71%	0.39%	
ZEV (e.g. Tesla)	0.37%	0.16%	
Charging Stations (CS)	58	401	2016 DOE Data
Ratio of CS/ EV	19	5	

Rank By % EV	Town	Total Vehicles	# of EVs	% EV	# of Charging Stations
1	Westport	9,421	146	1.55%	7
2	Weston	3,385	45	1.33%	0
3	New Canaan	7,055	93	1.32%	1
4	Bridgewater	477	6	1.26%	0
5	Greenwich	20,740	256	1.23%	6
6	Wilton	5,996	57	0.95%	3
7	Darien	6,735	61	0.91%	5
8	Sherman	975	8	0.82%	0
9	Redding	2,616	19	0.73%	0
10	Ridgefield	7,759	50	0.64%	4
11	Newtown	7,212	41	0.57%	0
12	Stamford	29,620	142	0.48%	15
13	Norwalk	19,774	82	0.41%	8
14	New Fairfield	3,750	15	0.40%	1
15	Bethel	4,752	18	0.38%	1
16	Brookfield	4,876	18	0.37%	0
17	Danbury	16,713	50	0.30%	5
18	New Milford	6,576	15	0.23%	2
	Total	158,432	1,122	0.71%	58

Note: EV counts are for 2011-2015 model year only. Charging stations are from 2016 DOE data and do not include Tesla affiliated facilities. The number of stations continues to increase rapidly.

