

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

The Sustainable Energy Commission held a regular meeting Thursday, April 20, 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 7:00pm

**Present:** Chairman Kathy Quinn, Allen Adriani, Graham Clifford, Mark Sievel, Thomas Snayd, Dave Stout, Barbara Toomey

**Also Present:** Fred Hurley, Chuck Litty, one member of the public.

**Absent:** George Brown, Jeff Jorgenson,

**Communications:** Ms. Quinn informed the commission of a Climate Change Stakeholder Engagement event. There was an article in the Newtown Bee relative to recycling plastic bags at local grocery stores. The commission discussed having a receptacle at the transfer station for plastic bags. The cost and probability of getting larger recycling containers was discussed. Ms. Quinn talked about preferring to get refunds for water bottles as opposed to being taxed.

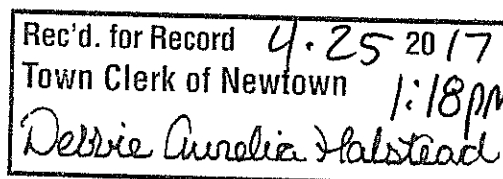
**Public Comments:** Herb Flynn is a resident who works for a solar company and was present to observe.

**Acceptance of Minutes:** Ms. Toomey moved to accept the minutes of 03/16/17. Mr. Adriani seconded. Ms. Quinn noted that Dave Stout was absent for the meeting of 3/16/17. All in favor of the amended minutes.

### **Business**

#### **Discussion and possible action:**

- a. **Status of Landfill Solar Project:** Final permits & contract sign offs from Eversource have been received for virtual net metering. A survey team will be out in April; final bids on subcontractors are coming in and Mr. Hurley expects to learn of the date of construction soon. He expects activating in May with a final acceptance date at the end of October 2017.
- b. **Reed School solar project:** This project is moving along quickly. The contractors have been working off hours, weekends and holidays to be less disruptive to the student body. A promo was filmed for marketing material around Direct Energy.
- c. **Solomon Solar project:** The current virtual net metering bills are having push back from Eversource. Newtown's projects are in the queue and are anticipated to be accepted in 2018-2019. We are tied into 2 megawatts and Mr. Hurley expects that to go through; credits will be used for the high school.
- d. **MLS Group – Nunnawauk Meadows – solar:** They are trying to do one of the first big solar projects for subsidized housing. The proposal has not been accepted yet. The emergency generation has been dropped from the project; this is an evolving project.



- e. **Batchelder site – potential for solar:** By the end of May there should be a designated developer for this site. Rob Sibley, Deputy Director of Land Use, has been handling the RFP; there are multiple grants tied together, the clean-up of the site, remediation and the creation of the solar farm with virtual net metering.
- f. **Grant Funds – EV charging station:** Mr. Hurley reported he is waiting for Fairfield Hills Authority sign off. The designated EV charging station will be a smart station. A smaller unit will be at the Department of Public Works.
- g. **Energy Savings program update:**
  - Public Works –** JK will do this project, partially through the SBEA program. There won't be money available for the waste oil heater, which would be used to heat a high bay area; this may be a separate project.
  - Library –** Waiting on a response from the Library.
  - Head O' Meadow –** Waiting on a response from Gino Faiella.

Ms. Quinn opened conversation on the possibility of addressing the overall issue of LED lighting at the schools. Mr. Stout said there are municipal financing programs for energy efficiency projects. Mr. Hurley said that currently payment has been contained within the existing line items for electricity, building by building. Mr. Hurley noted that there is awareness of the importance of color renditions in lighting. Mr. Stout said that Eversource has comprehensive programs for lighting rebates. Rebates are increased by combining more than one ECM (Energy Conservation Measure). The high school and the middle school would be under the EO (Energy Opportunity) program. Mr. Hurley suggested finding out from Mr. Faiella what has been updated already and suggested presenting a package to Dr. Erardi through Mr. Faiella, to take, as a proposal, to the Board of Education.

- h. **Microgrid feasibility study:** There is a possibility of a battery/storage project as a microgrid to be tied to solar projects; this may be more productive in terms of grant money and can be used to provide emergency power for a time.
- i. **Street Lighting:** The RFP should be out by the end of May.
- j. **Funding for High School program:** Ms. Toomey spoke with Ms. Rodrigue. She will set up a meeting to learn more about what they are planning to do.
- k. **Sustainability course:** not discussed.
- l. **Dashboard for website:** Mr. Hurley said this is almost to the point of being on the town website. Mr. Clifford will work on it once it is on the website.
- m. **VW Settlement:** no update. They will be setting up EV charging stations.

#### **Additional Items for discussion:**

- 1. **Sustainable CT:** Mr. Litty reported Sustainable CT is moving along smoothly. There will be test actions for the towns to look at in July. There are eight different groups, each group will produce ten actions which will be on the website. They are still working on the points system.

2. **Newtown Forward:** This group is working on environmental issues. Ms. Quinn, Mr. Hurley and Ms. Toomey attended a meeting. Newtown Forward will march in Washington DC on climate change on April 29. They are involved in the plastic bag initiative as well as organics.
3. **Municipal Energy Plan:** no update.
4. **Energy Star Portfolio Manager:** no update.
5. **Web Site:** The website will be updated with new pictures of the Reed project.
6. **Bridgeport Eco-Park:** no update.
7. **Organic Recycling:** Compost is available April 21 & April 22. The 500 containers are almost gone and 40 more have been received for local events where residents can sign up for the program. Household Hazardous Waste Day is at the end of May.
8. **Fracking Waste:** Ms. Quinn sent the information to the Legislative Council.
9. **Earth Day** – Earth Day is April 22, 2017, on the lawn of Middle Gate School, 10am-4pm.

**Adjournment:** Having no other business, Mr. Stout moved that the Sustainable Energy Commission adjourn their regular meeting at 8:33p.m. Ms. Toomey seconded. All in favor.

The next regular meeting will be held on May 18, 2017.

Submitted, Susan Marcinek, clerk