

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting – via Google Meets

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Called to order at 7:00pm

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION

Present via teleconference: Kathy Quinn, Allen Adriani, Zach Marchetti, Erik Weiss, Mark Sievel, Dave Stout, Carol Walsh, Jacqueline Meriano, George Brown

Also Present via teleconference: Director of Public Works Fred Hurley, BOE Director of Facilities Robert Gerbert

Communications – A. Adriani was contacted by John from Honeywell who wants to do something in terms of energy reduction for the town. The Commission discussed it and determined that a lot of the work has already been completed. There isn't enough savings to make it worth it. It would be better to revisit this in 6 to 8 months as things settle back to normal.

Public Comments – None

Acceptance of Minutes - A. Adriani moved to accept the minutes of the 11/19/20 meeting. Z. Marchetti seconded, all in favor

BUSINESS

Newtown Charter review – K. Quinn explained that the Legislative Council is doing a review of the town Charter and asked the SEC if there are changings that need to be made. C. Walsh asked if they should consider broadening their mission statement to include recycling or carbon footprint reduction. C. Walsh will bring the suggested revision back to the Commission at the January meeting.

ZREC for Community Center, new Police Station and Hook & Ladder Fire House – The systems are up and operational.

VNM solar project – F. Hurley reported that they are still waiting on the Legislature to approve credits that would include our last MW. However, in the meantime, Newtown, with other towns is filing a review by PURA for unused credits logged by Eversource which may equal 10 to 12 of available credits for those in the queue.

How to increase the number of EV charging stations in town – M. Sievel contacted East Hampton NY to find out how they got the EV charging stations installed at no cost to them. Tesla and Electrify America put them in. M. Sievel hasn't heard back from Tesla but did contact Electrify America. It takes about a year from application to construction. They only do level 3 fast charge stations which require heavy utility. They also require 24/7 access and close to the highway. They talked about the property that SHOP has in Sandy Hook Center as a possible location. M. Sievel will reach out to SHOP to see if there is interest.

Using the Small Business Energy Advantage (SBEA) program for town building/schools –D. Stout and B. Gerbert had Eversource out to Head of Meadow and Reed Schools for the lighting. They should have something back any day.

Schools update – B. Gerbert reported that they will be doing a high level energy audit for all the schools, with Louriero Engineers that will be paid for by Eversource.

Update on Community Center/Senior Center co-generation meeting update – Gas usage appears to be high at the Community Center. They put the data loggers in to get more information. It doesn't seem that the CO2 demand ventilation is working.

New Police Station – Waiting on utility bills for the next few months to see how everything is running.

Municipal Center envelope, IR camera – A. Adriani, E. Weiss and F. Hurley will meet at the Municipal building to take Infra Red images.

Energy Star Portfolio Manager – A. Adriani has working with Eversource at the Community Center and the New Police station for the energy portfolio.

Demand Reduction program – CPower was brought on board because of new solar on the buildings. It is not a full blown demand reduction program yet. It has been put on the back burner until things get back to normal.

Facebook presence – J. Meriano met with E. Weiss and A. Miles to discuss how facebook would work. It was decided that it would be informational and updated approximately 7 to 10 days to keep it fresh. E. Weiss suggested a direct link from the Facebook page to the Newtown SEC Municipal site <https://www.newtown-ct.gov/sustainable-energy-commission> to facilitate access to meeting agendas, minutes, etc.

Municipal Energy Plan – no update

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

HRRA grant for composting program – No update

General Recycling – No update

Conn. Coalition for Sustainable Materials Mgmt. (CCSMM) – F. Hurley explained that there are a lot of different components. There is Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), glass and trying to find a way to have a sustainable material management. The Town has also put out a curbside recycling pick up bid with 8 different options.

Next meeting is January 21, 201.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Arlene Miles, Clerk