

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting – via Google Meets

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Called to order at 7:00pm

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION

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

Absent: Zach Marchetti

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

Communications – None

Public Comments – None

Acceptance of Minutes – M. Sievel moved to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2021 meeting. E. Wiess seconded, all in favor.

BUSINESS

Newtown Charter review – C. Walsh provided updated changes; *The Sustainable Energy Commission shall identify, implement, and support renewable energy use, energy efficiency, energy conservation programs and strategies for sustainable material use and recycling in which the Town's residents, businesses, organizations, and Town agencies can participate and that may result in cost savings and a reduction in environmental impact for the Town or school district.* A. Adriani moved to accept the proposed recommended changes to the charter. M. Sievel seconded, all in favor.

VNM solar project – F. Hurley reported that there is discussion at the state level of either clearing the entire queue or to set a specific amount to take care of the queue and others that want to come on board. He also reported that he received drone pictures of the solar projects that he will forward so they can be put on the website as well as the Facebook page.

EV charging stations – M. Sievel and K. Quinn met with the First Selectman and he is very supportive of the project. M. Sievel has not heard back from SHOP regarding 7 Glen Road. 5 Glen Road is town property so that can be an alternate location but 7 Glen is preferred. F. Hurley will contact Chris Hodus who may be able to assist.

Schools update – B. Gerbert provided proposals from Greenleaf Energy Solutions for Head Of Meadow School. One is to retrofit fixtures with LED lights and the other is enhanced upgrades which include replacing fixtures with new enhanced fixtures. B. Gerbert explained that the enhanced option is better longer term rather than swapping out lamps with LED. M. Sievel moved to endorse the enhanced lighting quote from Greenleaf Energy Solutions. A. Adriani seconded, all in favor.

Hawley School design is continuing. They have a new set of drawings they are reviewing and they are picking up speed addressing structural issues.

Update on Community Center/Senior Center co-generation meeting update – A. Adriani reported that the data loggers showed humidity readings were inconsistent. It was discovered that they do not have the proper vapor barriers in the pool area. When they checked the re-balancers in the pool area it wasn't negative pressure as it should have been. There was so much moisture it collapsed the soffit. There are also dampers in the multi purpose room that bring out 100% outside air which is causing high energy usage.

Municipal Center, IR camera results – The infrared images highlighted opportunities that can be repaired. If they added R30 insulation from the roof, it would be roughly a 9 year payback. They would like to camera the crawl space under the Land Use and BOE wing but will wait until warmer weather.

Energy Star Portfolio Manager – K. Quinn signed in and was able to straighten out some of the oil usage. There is still more work that needs to be done.

Demand Reduction program – F. Hurley reported that three new buildings can go on for capacity credits. The way the PPA's were written, we get the credits, not the developer. We are doing a list of all generators to see which can be used for the summer demand response program.

Facebook presence – J. Meriano reported that the page is starting to show some increasing engagement. A contact button to the Municipal website was also added.

Municipal Energy Plan – no update

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

Changes to recycling/composting efforts – No update

Next meeting is February 18, 2021.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Arlene Miles, Clerk