

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Sustainable Energy Commission held a regular meeting Thursday, September 21, 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 7:00p.m.

Present: Chairman Kathy Quinn, Allen Adriani, George Brown, Graham Clifford, Mark Sievel, Tom Snayd, Barbara Toomey

Absent: Jeff Jorgenson, Dave Stout

Communications: Ms. Quinn spoke about an editorial in the Newtown Bee on August 11 about sustainability, resilience and stability, having to do with the CT comprehensive energy strategy. Some environmental groups are not happy because there isn't enough emphasis on renewable energy. The Sept. 22 edition of the Newtown Bee has an article about the PPA (power purchase agreement) and Reed School.

Public Comments: none.

Acceptance of Minutes: Mr. Snayd moved to accept the minutes of the special meeting of July 20, 2017. Mr. Sievel seconded. All in favor.

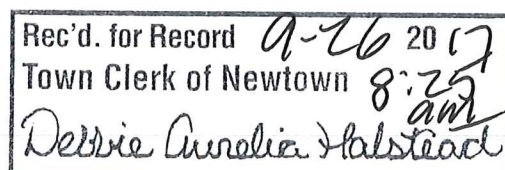
Business

Discussion and possible action:

- a. **Status of Landfill Solar Project:** There is a preconstruction meeting on 9/25 at 10:00am with Tesla. There is a groundbreaking ceremony on 9/26 at 11am at the landfill. Ms. Quinn said that the federal government is considering tariffs on solar panels coming in from other countries.
- b. **Reed School solar project:** this system is online now.
- c. **New Project – Sandy Hook School Solar:** Sound Solar is doing a site assessment.
- d. **Solomon Solar project:** There is a 2 megawatt offer at .089 cent/KW hour virtual net metering project from Alco/Solomon. The actual project is in Griswold; Mr. Hurley suggested recommending the award to First Selectman.
- e. **MLS Group – Nunnawauk Meadows – solar:** no update.
- f. **Batchelder site – potential for solar:** no update.
- g. **Grant Funds**

EV charging station: The unit has arrived. Town is running conduit now.

New Bright Ideas10K Grant: Ms. Quinn said that the grant can be used for different projects including educational purposes. Some has to be saved for promotional material relative to the electric vehicle, such as a wrap.



h. Energy Savings program update:

Public Works – no update.

Library – no update.

New Construction projects – Community Center: Ms. Quinn will follow up with the list of items the commission created for the general contractor. There is a community center design team meeting on 9/26 prior to the Public Building & Site Committee meeting.

General plan for schools: Mr. Faiella has information on the investment grade audit and is combining it with the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) and with Eversource programs. There is work being done at the Middle School. The next project will be at the High School. All lighting will be done. The boilers will be replaced at Hawley School.

i. Microgrid feasibility study: no update.

j. Street Lighting: no update.

k. High School Sustainability Program – funding possibilities: The newly hired greenery teacher is young and enthusiastic and focusing on agriculture and interested in composting on a larger scale. He is open to ideas as long as they fit within the curriculum.

l. Dashboard for website (API keys): Data from Reed is feeding in. A problem with the Waste Water Treatment Plant numbers is being investigated.

m. Request re-appropriation of remaining budget funds to next fiscal year: These funds were re-appropriated and put into a non-recurring fund.

Additional Items for discussion:

- 1. Sustainable CT:** A draft list of actions is completed. Towns can sign up for the program.
- 2. Newtown Forward:** The Plastic Ocean will be shown at West Conn, 2pm on Oct. 14.
- 3. Municipal Energy Plan:** no update.
- 4. Energy Star Portfolio Manager:** no update.
- 5. Web Site:** Sustainable CT site needs to be added to the Sustainable Energy Commission website.
- 6. Organic Recycling:** There are up to 600 households now participating in this program.
- 7. Fracking Waste:** no update; some towns have banned fracking waste.

Mr. Adriani commented on the outdoor lights being on during the day at Dodgingtown Fire Department. Mr. Sievel noted that the ambulance garage is also lit up and suggested they may be on for safety purposes at night. Ms. Quinn said that Sandy Hook Fire Department wasn't interested on having solar panels. Mr. Clifford suggested using grant funds for light sensors on town buildings or using photo cells.

Adjournment: Having no other business, Mr. Adriani moved that the Sustainable Energy Commission adjourn their regular meeting at 7:36p.m. Mr. Sievel seconded. All in favor.

The next regular meeting will be held on October 19, 2017.

Submitted, Susan Marcinek, clerk