

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Public Works Department, 4 Turkey Hill Road, Newtown
Thursday, August 19, 2021
Called to order at 7:00PM

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

Present: Allen Adriani, Kathy Quinn, Erik Weiss,
Present via teleconference: Mark Sievel, Jackie Meriano (7:18)
Also Present: Director of Public Works Fred Hurley, Bob Gerbert
Absent: David Stout, Carol Walsh, George Brown

Communications – None

Public Comments –None

Acceptance of Minutes – A. Adriani moved to approve the minutes of the 6/17/21 with the following correct: The last line under “Outreach to Commercial Community-Legislative Council” should read – E. Weiss suggested that maybe P&Z could suggest that when building, build to accommodate solar in the future. E. Weiss seconded, all in favor.

Appointment of new Chair and/or new member – Not discussed

Outreach to Commercial community along with P&Z and EDC – C. Walsh and K. Quinn have put something together and will be ready for the next meeting.

VNM solar project – New project waiting state approval– The filing with PURA got support from Speaker of the CT House, Matt Ritter, who signed a letter to approve the 1 megawatt. If that goes forward it will pick up the rest of the schools. The state has basically ended how the program works and is now setting up a tariff program. It is basically an auction system with no restrictions on the number of beneficial accounts. The potential savings are less, but there is less risk and uncertainty. The first year there will only be one auction in February 2022 after that they will do two a year.

Electric Vehicles charging stations – F. Hurley has gotten SHOP’s revisions so he will be able to make changes to the contract which should be done soon.

School Updates: B. Gerbert reported that *Head of Meadow School* will be finished next week. They have waited 2 months for fixtures. They are running into a similar problem with *Reed School*. They are going to start on Monday with the indirect water heaters. He is confident they

will have the heat completed when they need it but it will be done piece meal. As the lighting fixtures come in they will be installed. *Hawely School* is almost complete with the design. The Board of Selectman started the resolution and now it has to go through the other boards to get on the ballot. At *Head of Meadow*, there is a wireless controller that allows them to set dimming both inside and out. It was suggested to raise the review of a possible geothermal heating system in lieu of the current CIP proposal for new boilers at Head Of Meadow School. B. Gerbert and F. Hurley will follow up.

Update on Community (water usage, RTU's)/Senior Center co-generation meeting – No Update

Municipal Building Strategic Plan Committee Overview – Discussed possible geothermal the library. The meetings are moving along a lot more positively. Graham Clifford updated the database and B. Gerbert populated it. Al Miles has indicated IT will assist in finding an on going home for the data. Also GIS applications will be utilized where possible to aid access to the data.

Energy Star Portfolio Manager – K. Quinn has pulled the forms for the Police Department and the Community Center to get them included.

Demand Reduction program, C Power, Generators – No update

Facebook presence – J. Meriano provided Facebook updates (attached). There have been a few post engagement. It was decided that answering questions and links to more detail are as far as the interaction should go.

Municipal Energy Plan – No update

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

Changes to recycling/composting efforts – F. Hurley reported that HRRA, CT DEEP and Oak Ridge will hold a press release on August 26th regarding the glass program. He also reported that they are still in negotiations with curbside recycling how it will go forward. It will either be a huge change or very little change.

Next meeting is September 16, 2021

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Arlene Miles, Clerk

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION - MEETING

Facebook Updates/Social Media Insights

Key Metrics for July 22 – August 18:

- People Reached: 36 (+157%)
- Post Engagements: 7 (+250%)
- Total Page Likes: 80, 0 new like this cycle (NC)
- Page Views: 3 (NC)
- Total Posts in this cycle: 6 (4 in July, 2 so far in August)

Post Highlights:

- Alternative Fueling stations locator (generated a response “Fairfield Hills would be an ideal place for a regional charging station for multiple cars.”)
- The United Nations Goal of the Month | August 2021: Affordable & Clean Energy
- Tips on how to save energy and money during the extreme heat months.

Facebook insights are calculated on a 28-day cycle.