

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Public Works Department, 4 Turkey Hill Road, Newtown
Thursday, December 16, 2021
Called to order at 7:00PM

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

Present: Allen Adriani, Kathy Quinn, Dana Myjak

Present via teleconference: Mark Sievel, George Brown, Robert Bohn

Absent: Carol Walsh, Jackie Meriano, David Stout

Also Present: Director of Public Works Fred Hurley

Communications – K. Quinn thanked M. Sievel for his work at the commission. He will not be renewing his seat after almost 10 years of service. K. Quinn also talked about an article about Altus Power joining forces with CBRE (Attached).

Public Comments - None

Acceptance of Minutes – A. Adriani moved to approve the minutes of the 11/18/21 meeting, M. Seivel seconded. D. Myjak made a correction that he was present via teleconference, not absent. All in favor with correction.

Appointment of new Chair – No update

Outreach to Commercial community along with P&Z and EDC – K. Quinn emailed Land Use on proposal reviews regarding sustainable energy goals. They would like to have these proposals looked at for EV, geothermal and solar before plans are finalized.

VNM solar project – New project waiting state approval– F. Hurley reported, they will be presenting tomorrow to PURA on the reuse of VNM credits. That would be our next megawatt of VNM. Because the credits are reduced from 80% to 60% to 40% over the first three years, all that reduced credit is stilling there and needs to be reallocated.

They are rolling out the replacement for the LREC and VNM program. This is the utilities working with DEEP and PURA. They have done away with the LREC and ZREC programs. It is a reverse auction type thing. There is only one auction next year and every year after will be 2 each year. There are two more webinars one is a Q&A and another is how to implement in January.

Electric Vehicles charging stations – Electrify America has not responded to the contract in the last few weeks.

School Updates: *Reed School* is 99% completed. All of the lights are installed. The vendor is completing the installation of new wall switches for dimming in each room. They did complete the rebate paperwork with Eversource, and they will schedule an audit to verify the install. *Hawley* HVAC bid is set to go out next week, with first contractor walkthrough scheduled for December 28.

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

Town Building Strategic Plan Committee Overview – A. Adriani reported that the database is pretty far along they just need to start populating. They just toured Edmond Town Hall last week.

Energy Star Portfolio Manager – No update

Demand Reduction program, C Power, Generators – No update

Facebook presence – No update

Municipal Energy Plan – No update

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

Changes to recycling/composting efforts – No update

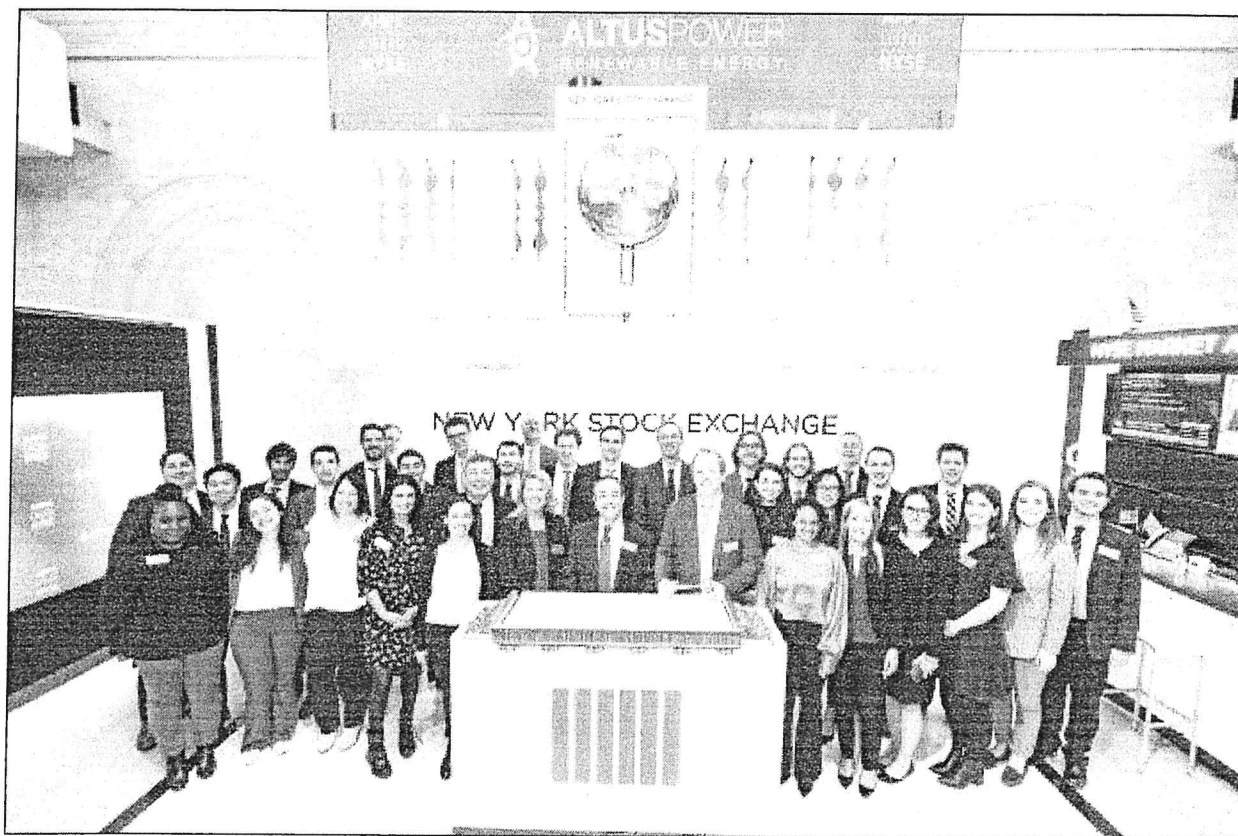
Next meeting is January 20, 2021

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Arlene Miles, Clerk

Company amps up commercial solar plan

By Alexander Soule



David L. Nemec / Altus Power Inc.

Executives and staff of Altus Power on Friday at a ceremony to ring the opening bell of the New York Stock Exchange in New York City.

STAMFORD — With more than \$635 million in fresh capital, a local company is pushing ahead with plans to plaster the rooftops of offices, warehouses and shopping centers nationwide with solar panels.

Altus Power America debuted its new “AMPS” stock listing last week, with executives on Friday ringing the opening bell of the New York Stock Exchange. To gain the listing, the company merged with a “blank check” company formed by CBRE, the largest commercial real estate brokerage and management firm in the United States, giving it access to the public markets.

While companies like Sunnova Energy and Sun-Run have focused on residential solar, Altus Power is securing agreements with commercial building owners. Enter CBRE, which formed a special-purpose acquisition company to sell stock to investors to fund the combination and provide fresh capital for Altus.

“The real answer to the scaling question came in the form of CBRE’s interest — if you’re a company that’s looking to put solar on rooftops, there is probably no better entity on the planet to partner up with than CBRE,” Altus Power co-CEO Lars Norell said in a September podcast hosted by CBRE. “CBRE manages seven billion square feet of real estate and hundreds of thousands of rooftops.”

Altus Power is also pursuing traditional solar farms on unused land, including in Northford about five miles east of New Haven. The Connecticut Siting Council is considering the proposal.

In a Securities & Exchange Commission filing in early December, Altus Power projected revenue of \$74 million this year from solar arrays nationally that produce 410 megawatts of power. The company had a slight loss in the first six months of this year.

Altus Power predicts it will have 1.7 gigawatts of solar capacity by 2024 — the equivalent of providing power to every house in Connecticut and roughly one of every two apartments.

In September, Norell said the Northeast represents an under-utilized market for development of solar despite limited effectiveness during winter when days grow short.

“A solar array that produces 100 units of electricity in Massachusetts may produce 150 or 160 units of electricity in Arizona,” Norell said in September. “But power prices in Massachusetts are 200 percent higher than they are in Arizona — so even though there’s less energy made in Massachusetts, the value of the solar system is actually higher up north than it would be down south.”

Alex.Soule@scni.com; 203-842-2545; @casoulman