

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Public Works Department, 4 Turkey Hill Road, Newtown
Thursday, June 15, 2023
Called to order at 7:00PM

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION

Present: Kathy Quinn, Carol Walsh, Robert Bohn, Derek Pisani, Damian Bednarz, Mike Oristaglio,

Absent: David Stout, Allen Adriani, George Brown

Also Present: Director of Public Works Fred Hurley

Communications – K. Quinn talked about the freeway in Pennsylvania. Recycled glass is being used as fill for a quick temporary fix. She explained the process of milling the glass; 10,000 cubic yards, 2,000 tons. It's less expensive and gets around supply issues.

Public Comments – None

Acceptance of Minutes – D. Pisani moved to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2023 meeting. M. Oristaglio seconded. All in favor.

Update to Smart Power residential storage program – K. Quinn reported there is no update. She is looking to set up another session, possibly at the library.

Vote on option to skip July 20th or August 17th meeting – After a short discussion it was decided the July 20 meeting will be held; the August 17 meeting will be cancelled.

Discuss possibility of doing and Energy Fair later this year / Crossroads Solutions letter: K. Quinn said that Chuck Litty has been involved in energy fairs in Southbury. It takes months to put together. There are geothermal, solar, audit, heat pump and EV vendors at the fair. K. Quinn suggested members of the commission go to the next one in September to talk to the various vendors and collect contact information; she will talk with the Newtown Earth Day organizers about rolling the vender idea in to the Earth Day event in Newtown.

10K Grant decision – F. Hurley reported that the grant is committed to EV charging stations at Edmond Town Hall.

Sub-Committees

EV Charging stations – Edmond Town Hall has finalized the location; this is moving along. Two of the three components are in and this may be complete by the end of summer. All underground conduit was complete prior to paving the ETH parking lot.

Energy Storage – Load Demand: M. Oristaglio reported this is interesting technology for storage. The advantage is it claims to pack a lot of energy in a small area; 1 megawatt into half an acre, claiming to last 100 hours. F. Hurley noted the 1 megawatt system at the Transfer Station is on three acres. The cost is claimed to be 1/10 the cost of lithium ion.

Rec'd. for Record	6-19 2023
Town Clerk of Newtown	8:15 am
Debbie Aurelia Halstead	

Portfolio Manager – K. Quinn and M. Oristaglio will get together to update.

Status of solar projects

Buy All Program– the preliminary contracts were complete the end of May; the Town has heard nothing; in limbo. The next round of applications is due in August. F. Hurley is hoping for an answer on the current applications prior to that. The Municipal Center roof is asbestos and qualifies as brownfields.

Off site 1MW VNM – This may get resolved internally. PURA and DEEP are asking for determination from utilities.

Other Solar Opportunities, Batchelder Site, Hawley School, High School Auditorium - Work is being done on environmental information to put out to potential developers for remediation of Batchelder. John Barlow is the new Facilities Director for the Board of Education; he will be invited to an SEC meeting.

School Updates:

Hawley - no update.

Town Building Strategic Plan Committee – F. Hurley reported this a 2-3 year implementation plan. This will tie databases from all departments together. It is a long term project, well worth doing and will protect information as the data will be backed up.

Municipal Energy Plan – K. Quinn and C. Walsh will work on this accumulation of what has been done and what will be done next. Information can be linked to the SEC webpage on the Town website

Social Media – D. Bednarz said currently the SEC has a website and a Facebook page with 100 followers. He asked what we want to do with these platforms and suggested aggregating state and federal programs, all public information, relative to credits for solar and heat pumps. There will be discussion with the Town Clerk; Damian will come to the July 20 meeting with a plan.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

Changes to recycling/composting efforts – There will be solar based composting onsite which reduces cost or hauling offsite. PVC piping and fans offer a way to cut down on household waste. Participants will receive a recycling kit and two bags a week for a year; any additional bags will cost \$1 per bag. The challenge is to get people to change habits. DEEP reached out to different towns, looking at various pilot programs. When evaluated, they will determine what works and what doesn't.

Lighting at FFH – There are currently different models of lights at Fairfield Hills. They are looking for a fixture to shield the lights and divert the lights down, or at least keep them from shining up. Heat is an issue when putting anything on top of the bulb. Dark skies are the issue.

Next meeting is July 20th.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sue Marcinek, Clerk Pro Tem

