

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Public Works Department, 4 Turkey Hill Road, Newtown
Thursday, October 19, 2023
Called to order at 7:04PM

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

Present: Kathy Quinn, Mike Oristaglio, David Stout, Nicolas Lombardo, Robert Bohn, Damian Bednarz

Absent: Allen Adriani, George Brown, Carol Walsh

Also Present: Director of Public Works Fred Hurley, and one member of the press

Communications – K. Quinn reported that she has reached out to the developer who is proposing a development on Castle Hill to consider solar, heat pumps, charging stations before they start designing. She has also reached out to Walsh’s Corner on Berkshire Road to connect with Electricity America to consider installing EV charging stations before they start construction.

Public Comments – None

Acceptance of Minutes – R. Bohn moved to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2023 and September 21, 2023 meetings. D. Bednarz seconded, all in favor.

Update to Smart Power residential storage program – There was an informational meeting held last night via zoom meeting held last night. Approximately 8 people attended.

Newtown Earth Day April 27, 2024 – K. Quinn and N. Lombardo and Nick went to the Southbury Energy Fair & Green Expo and talked to vendors that may be a good fit for Newtown’s Earth Day on April 27, 2024.

Sub-Committees

EV Charging stations/10K Grant – Edmond Town Hall EV charging station is finally moving forward. They are putting in Juice Bar two double head type 2 chargers. They should be in there sometime in January.

Energy Storage – No update

Portfolio Manager – They are still working with an issue the electric account at Reed School. Once that gets straightened out, M. Oristaglio can present an analysis.

Status of solar projects

Buy All Program – The anticipation now is they are going to release the que results the second week in November.

Off site 1MW VNM – Still pending.

Other Solar Opportunities, Batchelder Site (plus anerobic digester) – The site still needs to be cleaned up. They were under the impression that this was being worked on but it turns out nothing was really happening. As a commission they can take on responsibility to take this on and start moving. One of the things that needs to be done is a plan of development for the property. The initial grant they are looking for is a remediation grant for \$1,000,000. They discussed a couple of MW's of solar as well an anaerobic digester. The town themselves wouldn't develop it they would go out for an RFP. In the upcoming budget they should put in for engineering services. There will also be an interface with the trail system going to Monroe. K. Quinn moved to recommend the Sustainable Energy Commission begin an active exploration of the potential development of the Batchelder property. M. Oristaglio seconded, all in favor.

School Updates: No update

Town Building Strategic Plan Committee – No update

Municipal Energy Plan – No update

Social Media – They are looking on making the website more user friendly with links to resources.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

Changes to recycling/composting efforts – No update

Lighting at FFH – FFH Authority will be taking over the lighting concerns at FFH.

Co-operation with other agencies – K. Quinn attended a FFH Authority meeting because they were talking about landscaping. One of the things they are looking at is pervious pavers that may be a good alternative to paving and have a positive impact on the environment.

Next meeting is November 16, 2023

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Arlene Miles, Clerk