

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Public Works Department, 4 Turkey Hill Road, Newtown
Thursday, November 16, 2023
Called to order at 7:00PM

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION

Present: Kathy Quinn, George Brown, Carol Walsh, Mike Oristaglio, Nicolas Lombardo, Robert Bohn
Absent: David Stout, Damian Bednarz, Allen Adriani
Also Present: Director of Public Works Fred Hurley

Communications – K. Quinn said is working to schedule a tour of the battery facility in Danbury. A new biodiesel plant in Danbury is extracting heavy grease and turning it into biodiesel. F. Hurley said that the primary revenue source is tipping fees.

Public Comments – None

Acceptance of Minutes – G. Brown moved to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2023. M. Oristaglio seconded, all in favor.

Update to Smart Power residential storage program – Our website can link to their website. K. Quinn asked N. Lombardo to get together with the other members to update the website. People attended webinars and expressed interest. This will continue to be promoted.

Approval of 2024 Meeting Schedule: R. Bohn moved to approve the 2024 meeting schedule (att.). N. Lombardo seconded. All in favor.

Sub-Committees

EV Charging stations/10K Grant – ordered for the Edmond Town Hall; delivery is January/February. The electrical infrastructure is complete, the pads and conduits are in and the power has been set up by Eversource. Now just waiting for units to arrive and be installed.

Energy Storage – Load Demand – no update.

Portfolio Manager – M. Oristaglio will prepare an update for January. They are still working on the issue with Reed School.

Status of solar projects

Buy All Program – Head O' Meadow has been accepted or awarded. Other three are on standby. The Town of Newtown is filing a motion with PURA (att.) Once the portal opened it only allowed 30 minutes to input proposals. There were over 200 applications mostly from municipalities, 58 projects will be picked. Those left on the queue, which includes three Newtown projects should be automatically be carried over to February. There is inherent unfairness in the program. Our proposal is to work through the queue. Head O' Meadow is a good project; hope to get going soon. Mr. Hurley is hopeful for a decent hearing.

RECEIVED FOR RECORD

2023 NOV 17 A 9 17

Dellia Curale Holstead
NEWTOWN TOWN CLERK

Off site 1MW VNM – still pending.

Other Solar Opportunities, Batchelder Site (plus anaerobic digester) – K. Quinn had maps and noted the rail trail was identified. There are many areas of concern at the Batchelder property. K. Quinn, C. Walsh and F. Hurley met with Rob Sibley to learn more of the history. A study is needed; K. Quinn suggested CIP funds. F. Hurley intends to put this in his budget as a starting point; the budget will be discussed with the First Selectman and the Finance Director. He suggested the Sustainable Energy Commission draft a proposal. A 2MW system is allowed on 6 to 7 acres. K. Quinn will send a video with discussion on brownfields to members who would like to see it. The Health Department has not seen signs that the plume is moving in the direction of residential properties. Future testing should be performed to confirm this. The history of the testing wells was not an issue. There are other uses of the property in addition to solar.

School Updates: K. Quinn read a report from John Barlow. Head O' Meadow School condenser project has been stalled due to equipment. 2024 HVAC grants applied for: Head O' Meadow condensers, Newtown High School a Wing and B Wing, and Hawley Indoor Air Quality project; reimbursements will cover 35% of cost. A resolution providing or an appropriation of \$130,000 for a school facility study has been approved; split between town and school.

Town Building Strategic Plan Committee – this will be continued under the new administration. The portfolio manager compliments this.

Municipal Energy Plan – No update

Social Media – a work in progress.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

Changes to recycling/composting efforts – The first application for an official leaf compost program has been submitted and tentatively accepted. The second round of applications is for a compost with food scraps program. The system will be up and running March/April 2024.

Lighting at FFH – As new lamps are replaced they will be dark skies. F. Hurley is looking for retrofits; nobody will certify.

Co-operation with other agencies – K. Quinn went to the Fairfield Hills meeting. Ideas and information should be shared between committees such as the Conservation Commission, the Sustainable Energy Commission and the Fairfield Hills Authority.

Next meeting is December 21, 2023

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43pm.

Att.: 2024 Meeting Schedule; PURA – Motion to Change the Program Rules for the Small NRES Program.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Marcinek, Clerk pro tem

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION
NEWTOWN PUBLIC WORKS
4 TURKEY HILL ROAD, NEWTOWN, CT 06470

2024 MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00pm.

January 18

February 15

March 21

April 18

May 16

June 20

July 18

August 15

September 19

October 17

November 21

December 19

January 16, 2025

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

PURA ANNUAL NON-RESIDENTIAL
RENEWABLE TARIFF
PROGRAM

DOCKET NO. 23-08-03

November __, 2023

**MOTION TO CHANGE THE PROGRAM RULES FOR THE SMALL NRES
PROGRAM**

Solomon Energy and the Town of Newtown respectfully submit the following Motion to change the Program Rules for the small Non-Residential Renewable Energy Tariff Program to allow bidders that were not selected in an auction the option to keep their applications in the project queue and receive priority in the next scheduled semi-annual NRES Request for Proposal. As a bidder in the small Non-Residential Renewable Energy Tariff Program for four projects, we submitted our bids as quickly as we could, and within the first hour the portal was opened, but it appears we will not get an allocation for a number of projects based on the time stamps of our applications. In addition, we have now put two of our projects in two different auctions and have not received an allocation. This has resulted in significant time, effort and cost, including application fees, that in many aspects has been wasted.

While we believe the “first come, first awarded” process is a legitimate structure to determine the awards, it does give significant advantages to larger companies that have the resources and banking relationships that allow them to quickly process their applications and immediately pay the application and performance assurance fees. It also results in significant disadvantages to municipalities and other organizations that have detailed payment processes they need to go through to disburse funds when all awards go to projects that can complete the process in less than an hour. In addition, many bidders cannot control how quickly their bank or financial

institution processes their ACH or wire transfer request and any delay by their bank may result in the loss of their potential NRES allocation. To illustrate how a difference in 10 minutes can make between a successful bid and a bid not chosen, we attach a copy of Eversource's recent spreadsheet detailing the Project Queue for the small NRES August RFP which shows that 136 projects (far more than will receive allocations) were submitted in the first hour the portal was opened.

While many of these issues are inherent to the RFP process, we feel that applications that have been submitted and are deemed complete by either UI or Eversource but do not receive an award should be granted priority over new applications in any subsequent RFP process. This proposed change to the Program Rules would (i) reduce the amount of work and cost that both bidders and the utilities need to perform in preparing and reviewing submissions for the projects that do not receive an allocation but will be re-submitted in the next RFP, (ii) reduce the application fees which need to be paid in each auction and (iii) maintain the objective of the current process that gives allocation to the projects that submit the earliest applications.

We respectfully suggest the following structure to implement the proposed change:

1. Each bidder whose application was deemed complete but did not receive an allocation in the RFP would be informed of their position in the queue and given the option to stay in the queue and receive priority in the next RFP;
2. In the event such bidder elects to stay in the queue, the performance assurance payment made by the bidder would remain with the utility until award and/or withdrawal of the project from the queue by such bidder;
3. No changes to the application would be permitted after the date of the original submission and bidders would confirm their original application in the new RFP process; and

4. Each utility would be required to maintain a list of the projects remaining in the queue and publish the list prior to any subsequent auction so that new bidders would be able to evaluate their chances of obtaining an allocation in the RFP process.

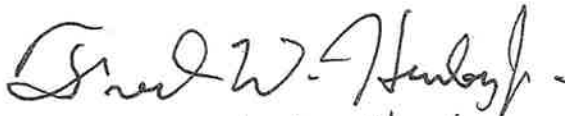
Dated: November __, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

SOLOMON ENERGY INC.

By: Christopher Whitman
Title: CEO

TOWN OF NEWTOWN


By: Frederick W. Hurley Jr.
Title: Director of Public Works