

MINUTES
CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2019, 7:00 PM
ROOM 210, TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET

Commissioners Present:

Richard Ogurick, Chairman
Paul Michalowski, Vice Chairman
Timothy White, Secretary
Walter Gayeski, Commissioner
Carol Doheny, Commissioner

Others Present:

Dan Knudsen, Cheshire Resident

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM

II. ROLL CALL

Roll was called and a quorum was determined to be present.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Michalowski to approve the minutes from the January 28, 2019 meeting, as amended.

SECONDED by Ms. Doheny and opened for discussion. The following corrections were noted:

1. Page 2, under Benchmarking – Energy Star Portfolio Manager, should read “energy consumption is calculated by dividing Btu’s by square feet.”
2. Page 4, New Business, Election of Officers, change nomination of Mr. Michalowski to continue as Vice Chairman from Mr. Ogurick to Mr. Gavin; add nomination of Mr. White to continue as Secretary by Mr. Michalowski, MOTION by Mr. Gavin, SECONDED by Mr. Gayeski.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

Nothing to report

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Efficiency Projects

1. Community pool – CHP project

The issues regarding the location of the engine-generator have been resolved.

The building permit needs to be obtained. The April completion goal is still achievable.

2. Bus Depot – LED exterior lighting; Dattco investment

Nothing to report.

B. Benchmarking

1. Energy Star Portfolio Manager - ENERGY STAR rating for all Cheshire buildings

Nothing to report.

C. Publicity/Education/Outreach

1. News articles and letters to the editor

Nothing to report.

2. Fall Festival – plans for 2019; theme, banner

Nothing to report.

3. Best Net Zero Houses – concept; subcommittee report

Nothing to report. Mr. Gayeski promised to have something by the next meeting.

D. Clean Energy

1. Greenskies 100 kW solar carport at Cheshire Police Station – status of project

The installation of the solar carport is on schedule.

E. PBC Projects

Nothing to report.

F. Grants, Rebates, & Utility Programs

1. Early involvement of Eversource in all town building projects

Nothing to report.

G. Energy Reliability Program – update on tree trimming

Nothing to report.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)

Mr. Knudsen presented his request for the Town of Cheshire to consider the formation of a non-profit CCA organization to act as an aggregator for the town and its residents for the purchase of electricity and natural gas. The benefits, according to Mr. Knudsen, would be cost savings, and a positive impact on climate change due to the encouragement of energy efficiency and renewable generation projects.

Evidently, Massachusetts (in 1997) and California (in 2001), as well as a few other states, have passed laws allowing communities to become third-party energy suppliers. If this were to happen in Cheshire, Eversource electricity and natural gas customers would automatically be enrolled with the CCA and would have to opt-out if they wanted to stay on Standard Service or choose a different supplier.

Mr. Knudsen said that a bill (HB6241), co-sponsored by representative Liz Linehan, has been introduced to pass a law in CT allowing the creation of CCA's, and he asked for energy commission support of the bill. If it were to become law, the Cheshire Town Council would be asked to consider the formation of a CCA in Cheshire, as an option to Eversource.

Mr. White requested more information on the cost savings opportunities for the town government (which might possibly act as an anchor), and its residents (including commercial and industrial). In his opinion, economics would be more likely to influence people to adopt the concept than any environmental benefits.

It appears that both the economic and environmental benefits would be rather small; however, Mr. Knudsen will research the actual results experienced in MA, and report them at a future meeting, before the energy commission decides whether or not to endorse the concept.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Michalowski to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM

SECONDED by Ms. Doheny and passed unanimously by all those present and voting (Mr. White departed at 8:15 PM).

Attest,

Richard G. Ogurick

Chairman, Acting Secretary