

**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2012 AT 7:00 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Rich Ogurick, Walter Gayeski, Andy Maye, Paul Michalowski and Carol Wilson

Commissioners Absent:

David Gavin and Joseph Nesdale

Staff Present:

None

Others Present:

Jessica Bergman of Clean Water Action (arrived at 7:25 p.m. and departed at 8:15 p.m.)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ogurick called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was present for this meeting.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. August 27, 2012 – Regular Meeting

A vote on the approval of the August 27th Energy Commission regular meeting was tabled until the next meeting.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioners all wished Mr. Noewatne a speedy recovery from his recent accident.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Management Projects

- 1) Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) projects - Complete; status of final reimbursement (\$44,300)

Chairman Ogurick reported that Cheshire's EECBG grant of \$108,000 was completed and submitted by June 30, 2012 and the Town has already received a partial reimbursement check of \$64,002. The balance of \$44,300 for the final reimbursement is still due to Cheshire.

- 2) Town-wide ESPC project – Ameresco Energy Audit – formation of subcommittee to prioritize projects; RFP for owner's representative

Chairman Ogurick reported that the Town Council formed a subcommittee on September 11, 2012, which will consist of 6 to 8 members to review the Ameresco audit findings and prioritize the proposed 300 projects that will be paid for by energy savings. He noted that Dave Gavin is part of this subcommittee on behalf of the Energy Commission.

Energy Commission members asked that a copy of the Executive Summary from Ameresco be forwarded to them for their review.

A Request for Proposals for an Owner's Representative to stand in as a quality assurance role for the Town received at least 6 responses. The new subcommittee will be selecting a finalist for this position.

- 3) Community Pool Dehumidification - update

Chairman Ogurick stated that per John Purtill of the Public Building Commission the proposed dehumidification plan being presented to the Town Council for approval will expel moist inside air and mix dry outside air with the remaining air, bringing down the humidity. The proposed plan will reclaim 90% of the heat from the expelled air via a heat exchanger then distribute the new air into the bubble dome with a flexible fabric sock that distributes the air down the length of the dome.

4) Energy audits at Hitchcock Phillips House

Chairman Ogurick stated that he did not have an update on having an Energy Audit done at the Hitchcock Phillips House.

B. Benchmarking

1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager-database update by Ameresco; need data

There was no update available at this meeting regarding the status of the database update of the Energy Star Portfolio Manager program.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

1) News articles and letters to the editor

Mr. Michalowski distributed copies of two recent energy related news articles from the Record Journal to share with the Commissioners during this meeting.

2) Fall Festival – post mortem

Ms. Wilson commented that just about everyone that stopped at the Energy Commission's booth at the Fall Festival had already had a HES energy audit done. She also noted that clipboards would be helpful next year at the event and that all of the compact florescent bulbs have been handed out.

Mr. Gayeski reported that while Ms. McAvoy was at the booth she received 10 new sign ups for HES visits. It is also believed that Mr. Nesdale was able to get some HES sign ups.

Commissioners agreed that they need a better draw / plan for the Energy Commission booth next year.

D. Clean Energy

1) 30% by 2015– status

Chairman Ogurick stated that there was not an update on Cheshire's points in the 30% by 2015 program on the program's web site when he checked today.

2) Community Innovations Grant – activity report due 7/31/12

Chairman Ogurick stated that he did not believe the Community Innovations Grant report had been submitted yet.

E. PBC Projects

1) Roof at PW Garage - status

The status of the roof replacement project at the Public Works garage was not known at this meeting. It was noted that the roof at the Cheshire Police Department was currently being replaced.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

1) Early involvement of CL & P and YGS in all upcoming energy projects – Energy Blueprint

There was nothing new to report on CL & P and Yankee Gas' Energy Blueprint programs; Commissioners agree that this program at CL & P should review all Town projects.

G. CL & P Energy Reliability Program

CL & P's tree trimming work continues around Town as part of their Energy Reliability Program. It was noted that crews were seen on Marion Road today.

H. Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge

1) Personnel / Organization

a) N2N program – ends on 4/30/13

Ms. Bergman noted that this is the final year of the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program, which will be ending on April 30, 2013. She stated that she feels there is tremendous potential in Cheshire.

- b) Shannon McAvoy – final day with N2N was 9/6/12; may continue in a different role

Ms. Bergman reported that Ms. McAvoy was now employed part time and working on fundraising for the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program.

2) Strategic Outreach

- a) N2N Monthly newsletter, Facebook page

There was no update on the Neighbor-to-Neighbor monthly newsletter or Facebook page.

- b) giveHES – Realtor update

The giveHES program is being used as a closing gift from Sally Bowman Real Estate to provide energy audits of houses at the time of purchase.

- c) Cheshire Social Services – HES-IE audits

Chairman Ogurick commented that he wished that the Cheshire Social Services Department could require Cheshire residents that qualify for the Income Eligible program to have the free energy audit done if they request energy assistance from the Town. Ms. Bergman stated that she would look into the status with the Cheshire Social Services Department.

- d) Oil & propane customers – deadline extended to 12/31/12; \$0.50 / square feet rebate for wall and attic insulation

The availability of funds for oil and propane customers has been extended to December 31st for wall and attic insulation if an approved vendor is used for the installation.

- e) Residential outreach sub-committee - status

Ms. Bergman talked about the tremendous potential in Cheshire and stated that she was looking for volunteers from the Town level to with Cheshire's Coalition Partners, such as the Cheshire Public

Library, scouting programs, school groups and congregations of the Town.

Ms. Wilson and Mr. Gayeski have agreed to work with Ms. Bergman and the new Cheshire Organizer for the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program to get a residential outreach sub-committee started. Commissioners talked about asking Tim White, former Town Council Liaison, to help out with this sub-committee.

Ms. Bergman stated that an objective of this subcommittee is to move the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program statewide and then nationally by cultivating a self sustaining program in Cheshire.

Chairman Ogurick stated that in order for this subcommittee to be successful it needed very clear 1 to 3 goals for the group.

Commissioners and Ms. Bergman talked about setting deeper energy saving goals in Town for the subcommittee and came up with the following goal:

To achieve energy saving averages of 20% or more in the Town of Cheshire by education of residents through free workshops; earned media via articles and letters to the editor; town mailing letter or trifold informational brochure; and coalition groups by April 30, 2013.

3) Goals

a) New HES / HES-IE audits

Chairman Ogurick was not sure what the 3rd Quarter HES audit goal is or Cheshire's status in reaching the goal.

b) Post-HES work (insulation, water heating, etc.) – “deeper energy savings”

Chairman Ogurick suggested that a letter be sent to the 1100 residents of Cheshire that have had HES audits done inviting them to a workshop on “deeper energy savings”.

Ms. Wilson commented that residents should be made aware of financial assistance options for deeper energy savings projects. Ms. Bergman noted that the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund has some of the best rebates in the country for many projects.

- 4) Score
 - a) Leaderboard

Ms. Bergman stated that Cheshire is in 9th place on the Leaderboard for the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Microgrid grant program – proposals from municipalities to help residents and ensure town governments function even when the electric grid goes down are due on 11/12

Chairman Ogurick explained that the Microgrid grant program was created to develop off grid power generation sources. Mr. Michalowski stated that he would contact Mr. Sitko, the Economic Development Coordinator for the Town to see if Cheshire could take advantage of this grant.

- B. ZREC program – solar projects under 100 kW

Chairman Ogurick stated that the Zero Emissions Renewable Energy Credit program is already in progress adding that maybe Cheshire could get involved in the next round.

- C. Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund – offering one on one coaching to municipal groups in the state working on clean energy or energy efficiency projects in their towns.

Chairman Ogurick reported that per Roger Smith, there is some funding available to coach Cheshire on developing energy efficiency programs. Chairman Ogurick noted that the Town has Ameresco doing the same thing for them already.

- D. Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) – CEFIA is designing a low cost, long term financing program; loan repaid through an assessment on building property tax

Chairman Ogurick stated that the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority (CEFIA), which was formerly known as the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund, is designing a low cost, long term financing program with loans being repaid through an assessment on building property tax. He also noted that former Town Councilor, Tim White is interested in this program proposal.

E. Solar open house – Saturday October 6th as part of the National Solar Tour

Chairman Ogurick stated that on Saturday, October 6th the National Solar Tour will be holding an open house in Enfield.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Carol Wilson to adjourn the Energy Commission meeting at 8:45 p.m.;
SECONDED by Paul Michalowski.

VOTE: In Favor – Gayeski, Maye, Michalowski, Ogurick and Wilson
Opposed – none

The motion passes 5– 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary