

CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION – Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 26, 2015
Regular Meeting
7:00 P.M. – Room 210, Town Hall

Commissioners Present: Chairman Rich Ogurick
Walter Gayeski

Commissioners Absent: David Gavin
Carol Wilson
Paul Michalowski
Phil Newton

Others Present: Tim White
Walter Gancarz

Others Absent: Peter Talbot, Town Council

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was NOT determined for this meeting.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from the September 28, 2015 could not be made without a quorum.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Efficiency Projects

- 1) Town-wide ESPC (Energy Saving Performance Contract) project

Mr. Gancarz reported this project is about 97-98% complete. Mr. Gancarz reported the discussion about supplemental projects is ongoing. A priority listing has been made and a determination must be made as to how much of the surplus will be allocated for supplemental projects. Mr. Gancarz reported no action has been taken by the Town Council on this matter yet. There was brief discussion.

- 2) Community Pool Energy Efficiency

Mr. Gancarz reported construction on the community pool is ongoing. Mr. Gancarz reported some of the ways energy efficiency will be included in the new pool dome structure: LED lights, a new high efficiency boiler and insulation. There was a brief discussion.

- 3) LED streetlights

Mr. Gancarz reported that on October 13, 2015 Town Council approved the Town's purchase of the streetlights from Eversource. Once a formal request is signed and submitted to Eversource, the process of buying, testing and choosing light fixtures will begin. There was a brief discussion about insurance liability, repair, maintenance and response times for the lights once they are owned by the Town. Mr. Gancarz loosely projected the completion date for this project to be as soon as April/May 2016.

B. Benchmarking

- 1) Mr. Gancarz reported most of the data has been entered and once it is all up to date, reports can be generated to track trends, analyze the data and look at demand curves.

- 2) Mr. Gancarz reported that according to Mike Manzi at Eversource, the automated energy usage downloads may not be available in the fourth quarter. Once it is updated, Mr. Gancarz will bring something to show the members of the Energy Commission.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

- 1) In Mr. Michalowski's absence, Chairman Ogurick reported the Energy Awareness Month program at Norton School was a success. The kids enjoyed it and the program was a step above last year.
- 2) Mr. White mention he recently visited an energy center in North Haven. Mr. White would like the Energy Commission to consider proposing to the Board of Education the idea of offering a half day field trip for students to visit the energy center. There is a \$250 school bus reimbursement. It was agreed this matter will be discussed again at next month's meeting.

D. Clean Energy

- 1) Solar on town-owned landfill

Mr. Gancarz reported there is a meeting on November 18, 2015 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Woodbridge Town Hall. The meeting will be attended by Woodbridge First Selectman, Ellen Scalettar, The Renewable Energy and Efficiency Business Association (REEBA), Energy and Technology Committee Co-Chairs and Ranking Members, Representative Lonnie Reed and Senator Paul Doyle, Representative Tim Ackert and Senator Paul Formica. The discussion will be about Virtual Net Metering and how it impacts your community and how to make sure your town's approved solar projects happens.

- 2) Solar possibilities on other Town-operated buildings

There was nothing new to report on this matter.

- 3) Chairman Ogurick reported that he and Mr. Gancarz attended the Clean Energy Communities awards ceremony on October 14,

2015. Cheshire was one of five towns to receive the honor of achieving the Gold Level of Energy Efficiency. The Town met or exceeded the following criteria:

- Completed 100% Benchmarking of Municipal and Board of Education buildings in EPA Portfolio Manager
- Redeemed first Bright Idea Grant for energy saving project
- Completed outreach campaign for residential and/or business community
- Achieved 20% Residential Program Participation
- Achieved 15% Commercial/SBEA Participation.

The Town energy efficiency snapshot is as follows:

ENERGY SAVED: January 2010-July 2015:

11,903,868 kWh
324,805 ccf

EMISSIONS AVOIDED Equivalent to:

7,788 tons of CO₂ avoided
1,358 cars off the road for one year
1,932 acres of trees planted

HOW THE TOWN DID IT:

- Used \$10,000 Bright Idea Grant to host Cheshire Light Bulb Event handing out 8,000 LED bulbs to Cheshire residents
- Earned a second \$10,000 Bright Idea Grant
- 2,094 (22%) homes have participated in residential programs
- 189 (15%) business and municipal energy-saving projects completed
- Earned 4 rewards on renewable track; previously installed solar photovoltaic system at Cheshire Public Library
- Whole Foods Market Distribution Center, Alexion Pharmaceuticals and Napoli Foods all installed large commercial solar systems

E. PBC Projects

Chairman Ogurick reported he sent an email on September 29, 2015 requesting that the Energy Commission be consulted regarding energy efficiency measures for all PBC projects. He has not received a response.

F. CL&P Energy Reliability Program - Tree Trimming

Mr. Gancarz reported tree trimming is on-going and expects the project will be completed in approximately one month.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business to discuss.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting dismissed at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Gill