

CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION – Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 24, 2016
Regular Meeting
7:00 P.M. – Room 210, Town Hall

Commissioners Present: Chairman Rich Ogurick
Rob Brucato
Walter Gayeski
Paul Michalowski

Commissioners Absent: David Gavin
Marty Cobern
Phil Newton

Others Present: Walter Gancarz, Town Engineer
Tim White

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** A quorum was determined for this meeting.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Mr. Michalowski to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2016 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Brucato and opened for discussion. The following correction was noted:

- 1. Under Bright Idea Grants, it should state the Town of Cheshire earned another \$4,500 reward, not \$45000.

The motion was returned to a vote and passed unanimously with the noted correction.

V. **COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communication to the Energy Commission.

VI. **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Energy Efficiency Projects

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

Mr. Gancarz stated the M&V phase is ongoing and a report is expected in November.

Chairman Ogurick asked for a status on the supplemental projects. Mr. Gancarz stated he will get an update and report back next month.

2) Community Pool Energy Efficiency

Mr. Gancarz presented numbers for the latest month of data and stated it is still not showing much. Mr. Gancarz stated the automatic data transfer is expected to be rolled out next month and Eversource has indicated Cheshire's launch will be made a priority.

3) Dryer Duct Cleaning program

Mr. Brucato stated he went back and looked at the Dryer Duct Cleaning sign up sheet from the Fall Festival and 106 residents signed up, not 30-50 as originally reported. Mr. Brucato pointed out this number is just from residents who participated in the light bulb exchange and believes interest in this program may actually be greater.

4) Concession stand renovations

Mr. Gancarz stated the first construction meeting is scheduled for this Wednesday. A contractor has been hired and several items have been identified to use the \$13,000 in grant money. There was a brief discussion. Mr. Gancarz stated he will provide updates as he receives them. Mr. Gancarz explained the discrepancy in the amount stated in the referendum versus what was actually approved. Mr. Brucato stated he will email Vincent Masciana and attend the next committee meeting on this project.

5) Energy Storage

Mr. White led a lengthy discussion about the use of a BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) to help the Town reduce demand charges and consume less energy during peak times. Chairman Ogurick asked Mr. White to simplify the information and bring it back at a later date. Mr. White stated he would like to invite a representative from Tesla to make a presentation to the Energy Commission. There was no objection.

B. Benchmarking

1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager

There was nothing to report on this matter.

2) Town Energy Use Graphs

There was nothing to report on this matter.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

- 1) News articles and letters to the Editor
Mr. Michalowski shared an article regarding some home buyers being willing to pay more for “smart homes.”
- 2) Energy Achiever Awards
Chairman Ogurick stated the Energy Commission should be considering potential candidates to be presented with the Energy Achiever Award. Mr. Michalowski stated he will reach out to Vincent Masciana about getting a Board of Education representative to attend the Energy Commission meetings.
- 3) 3rd Annual Science Fair at Norton School
Mr. Michalowski stated despite his best efforts, he received an email from Kara LaDore at Norton School stating that due to time constraints, she is unable to participate in a Science Fair this year. Mr. Brucato stated he is willing to see if there is interest at any of the other schools.

D. Clean Energy

- 1) Solar on town-owned landfill
Mr. Gancarz stated the impact study has not yet been received, but is expected this week. Mr. Gancarz stated Michael Milone signed the virtual net metering service agreement between Eversource and the Town of Cheshire. There was brief discussion about next steps and maintenance of the land and equipment.
- 2) Solar possibilities on other Town-operated buildings
Mr. Gancarz stated the WPCA is interested in a solar installation at their facility and expects an RFP to go out next month.

E. PBC Projects

Chairman Ogurick stated there was an article in the paper wherein Ramona Burkey from the Cheshire Public Library indicated renovations are expected at the library. Mr. Gancarz did not have any information about this matter. Mr. Michalowski stated he will try to get more information.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

- 1) Early Involvement of Eversource in all Town building projects
There was nothing to report on this matter.
- 2) Bright Idea Grants

Mr. Gancarz stated he received an email from Alison Jackman at Eversource indicating there are 3,255 bulbs left from the light bulb swap at the Fall Festival and it was up to the Town to host another light bulb swap or use the funds for another project. Mr. White suggested donating the light bulbs to the food pantry. Mr. Gancarz stated the remaining light bulbs have a dollar value of \$5,425, which could be used for both a donation to the food pantry and another project. No decision was made.

- G. CL&P Energy Reliability Program - Tree Trimming
Mr. Gancarz stated the tree trimming is on-going.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Statistics from the EVCS at Big Y
Mr. Michalowski stated he has been unable to obtain a data utilization report on the EVCS at Big Y. Mr. Michalowski stated he will continue to pursue this information.
- B. Soofa Bench
Mr. Gayeski shared information regarding the use of grant money to install a Soofa Bench in Town. There was a lengthy discussion about practical uses, possible locations and potential risks. In the end, it was decided that a Soofa Bench may not be the best use of grant money at this time.
- C. Clean Energy Communities - Revised and Amended MOU
Mr. Gancarz stated there is \$5,000 left in grant money that must be used by December 31, 2016. It was decided to discuss possibilities at next month's meeting.

Motion by Mr. Michalowski to move the November Energy Commission meeting from Monday, November 28, 2016 to Monday, November 21, 2016. Seconded by Mr Brucato and passed unanimously.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Brucato at 9:00 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Michalowski and passed unanimously.

Attest,

Karen M. Gill