

CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING
September 28, 2020 - VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was determined to be present.

Commission Members Present: Richard Ogurick (Chairman), David Gavin, Dan Knudsen,
George Romania

Staff Present: Daniel Bombero

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. August 31, 2020 - Regular Meeting Minutes

Correction to page numbers beginning at page two of the minutes.

MOTION by Mr. Gavin to approve the minutes.

SECONDED by Mr. Knudsen

VOTE The motion passed unanimously.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy efficiency Projects

1. Bus Depot – Energy efficiency of new trailer and equipment; blower door test

Mr. Bombero received an update from Mr. Clavet regarding the blower door test on the DATTCO trailer located at the Bus Depot. Mr. Gayeski has offered to perform the test free of charge and per Mr. Clavet, prior to DATTCO giving permission to perform the test, Mr. Gayeski will need to provide a description of the process and duration of the test.

2. Dodd & Highland Schools – JK Energy Solutions energy analyses

Mr. Bombero provided an update on behalf of Mr. Clavet who reports that these Board of Education initiated projects have been delayed due to Covid-19 restrictions. The Board of Education may consider scheduling the work after hours during the school year.

3. Highland School – “Government Freezer” project

Per Mr. Gavin, the work has been substantially completed since May 2020 (WSC).

4. MaClary Athletic Complex – RFP for LED lighting

Mr. Bombero reports that the Board of Education initiated project has been awarded to J.K. Energy Resources and that the light fixtures are currently in production and are scheduled to be installed prior to winter.

5. Updated HES program for residential buildings – press-release

Mr. Ogurick reported that Mr. Gayeski forwarded a press release for the free Home Energy Solutions (HES) assessment to the Cheshire Community Forum and Mr. Gayeski will also follow up with the newspaper to see if they have published the press-release he forwarded to them on September 14, 2020 (attached)

6. I Heart My Home – no cost one-on-one coaching for home energy upgrades

Mr. Knudsen reports that he has personally utilized this program and was satisfied with how the program assists individuals in meeting installation requirements, coordinates the HES audit and has many cost benefits. Mr. Ogurick clarified that this program is available to all Connecticut residents even though it originated in New Haven. The Commission agreed that the program may be useful to Cheshire residents.

B. Benchmarking

1. Energy Star Portfolio Manager – responsibility for database maintenance:

<http://s51582.mini.alsoenergy.com/Dashboard/2a5669734a665577a4941304b772b71513d>

Mr. Bombero will follow up with Professor Thompson from UCONN in order to coordinate a follow-up session on the database for the members of the Commission. Mr. Bombero will request that a link be forwarded to Mr. Knudsen to set up “read-only” access to the database. Mr. Romania volunteered to input the Town data into the site and Mr. Bombero explained that it is a manageable amount of data that will be sent directly to Mr. Romania by the Public Works Department. A discussion was had by all of the Commission members about the most effective way to make useful comparisons with the data. The group discussed medium versus mean as a way to make meaningful comparisons of energy consumption at Town-owned facilities. They discussed the options of being able to use the data to compare energy and natural gas consumption at the same buildings over several years or using the data to make these same comparisons to similarly sized buildings in other Towns or other States.

C. Publicity/Education/Outreach

1. News articles and letters to the editor

None to report.

D. Clean Energy

1. Greenskies 100 kW solar carport at Cheshire Police Station-monitor performance at:

<http://s51582.mini.alsoenergy.com/Dashboard/2a5669734a665577a4941304b772b71513d>

Mr. Bombero reports that the solar carport is fully operational and that the onsite production is 100%. Mr. Ogurick requested a performance evaluation from Mr. Bombero which evaluates the overall dollar value and effectiveness of the solar carport and solar array projects. Mr. Bombero and Mr. Gavin agreed with Mr. Ogurick that opportunities for additional solar projects need to be examined including; school parking lots, roofs, and other locations within Town.

E. PBC Projects

1. Improvements to the existing locker rooms and the HVAC system at the at the Cheshire Police Station

Mr. Bombero will update the Commission at their October meeting.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

1. Early involvement of Eversource in all Town building projects

There was no information reported.

G. Energy Reliability Program-update on tree trimming

Mr. Bombero provided an update for the Commission. He reported that the Enhanced Tree Trimming on Birch Drive has been completed. Four (4) additional streets were added to the customer focused Enhanced Tree Trimming schedule and include: Fox Hill Road, Woodland Drive, Finch Avenue (going into Meriden) and Crescent Circle.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. New Appointment to Energy Commission

Mr. Ogurick shared with members that there is a candidate currently going through Town Committee approval process who is likely to be appointed to the Energy Commission.

B. Municipal solar projects – own versus PPA

Mr. Ogurick led a discussion about the cost benefits to owning, operating and maintaining solar projects versus funding them through a purchase price agreement. He shared that if you purchase the project and the vendor goes out of business, then there must be someone in-house to perform maintenance and repair work. A discussion ensued. Mr. Ogurick expressed that a “list of achievements” or a cost analysis assessment of all solar and lighting projects would be beneficial.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Gavin and seconded by Mr. Knudsen. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM.

ATTEST

Anne McBain