

CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING
October 26, 2020 - VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Ogurick called the meeting 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, Walter Gayeski, George Romania, Ryan O’Grady, Chris Smith

Staff Present: Daniel Bombero

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. Ogurick introduced two (2) new members to the Commission; Ryan O’Grady and Chris Smith. Mr. O’Grady and Mr. Smith shared their work experience and how it relates to their interest in serving on the Energy Commission. Mr. O’Grady works for Connvex (Connecticut Valley Electric Exchange) and Mr. Smith works for a government relations firm in Hartford and previously served as the Chairman of the Wallingford Energy Commission. Other members of the Energy Commission were introduced and provided a brief synopsis of their work experience and their interests as they pertain to the goals and objectives of the Commission.

Mr. Ogurick announced that the Chairman seat on the Commission is up for election in January and anyone interested in serving as the Chair to the commission can communicate with him directly.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 28, 2020 Meeting Minutes

MOTION by Mr. Gavin to approve the meeting minutes

SECONDED by Mr. Romania

VOTE The motion passed unanimously

V. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no new communications to report.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bombero updated the Commission on the Board of Education projects on behalf of the school liaison, Richard Clavet.

A. Energy Efficiency Projects

1. Bus Depot – blower door test

Mr. Bombero explained that the Board of Education is still awaiting the requested information detailed in the September minutes in order to coordinate the blower door test. Mr. Ogurick provided the background information of the project. Mr. Gayeski explained the procedure for the blower door test as well as the benefits of the test. He also explained how this same test can be done on a house in order to locate and fix drafts and ultimately reduce energy costs for homeowners. Mr. Gayeski shared that there is no foundation for the DATTCO double trailer and there is a seam between the two structures which may be a potential area for leaks. Mr. Gavin added that based on the Energy Star Portfolio program, this office space generates about \$20,000.00 in yearly energy costs which could be reduced by sealing potential leaks and upgrading to LED lights.

Mr. O’Grady shared that there are meters, which are on the market that cost around \$200.00 and can discern which devices in the home are consuming the majority of energy.

Commission members discussed the Town LED lighting upgrade and Mr. O’Grady brought it to the attention of the Commission that one of the lights on West Ridge Court off of Plank Rd still needed to be converted to LED. Mr. Bombero will follow up on this.

Mr. Gayeski agreed to contact Mr. Clavet at CPS to provide him with the needed information to complete the blower door test.

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

Mr. Ogurick summarized this project and explained the incentives and rebates for this lighting upgrade. Mr. Bombero reported on behalf of Mr. Clavet that the lighting upgrades at Dodd are complete and the financial incentive is \$10,019.00. The incentive at Highland is \$17,335.84. Mr. Ogurick added that the upgrades include occupancy sensors, with dimming and brightening features.

3. MaClary Athletic Complex – LED lighting project

Mr. Bombero reports that this project is going forward and that the fixture brackets are on order and the lighting is expected to be upgraded prior to winter.

4. Updated HES program for residential buildings – press release

Mr. Ogurick summarized the HES program for the benefit of the newly appointed members. Walter reported about the enhanced audit program and shared that the press release he forwarded to the Herald was never published. Mr. Gayeski agreed to follow up with newspaper and resubmit the release in a jpeg. format on the Cheshire Forum so that the link is accessible to readers.

Mr. Ogurick led a discussion on why more homeowners do not take advantage of decreasing energy costs. He pointed out that energy costs are a small percentage (2%) of total household budgets. The group discussed how to get more people interested in energy savings and why homeowners may not be taking advantage of home energy upgrades or solar energy, which offers federal and state tax credits. Mr. Gavin stated that 3 to 4 % of the Town budget is energy related and that these costs are controllable and can have a large financial impact on the Town over time. Mr. Gavin stated that the solar farm will save the Town

approximately a million dollars over the next 20 years. Mr. O'Grady added that the delivery rather than generation is what drives energy costs up. The group discussed why homeowners so not take advantage of solar energy including esthetics and upfront costs for installation of solar

Panels built directly into roofing materials. Mr. Gavin suggested that real estate agents could offer solar options for buyers.

The group discussed the need for energy storage including battery walls for long term viability of solar.

5. I ♥ My Home – no cost one-on-one coaching for home energy upgrades

Mr. Ogurick summarized the program, which originated in New Haven, and is now available to all Connecticut residents.

B. Benchmarking

1. Energy Star Portfolio Manager – database maintenance

George Romania has agreed to input the Town data into the system and will need administrative permissions. Mr. Bombero stated that Professor Amy Thompson at UCONN will be sending Mr. Romania a link which will allow him permissions to input the necessary data. Mr. Bombero reports that another session has been scheduled for November 19th and he polled the group for their availability. Mr. Ogurick summarized how the Commission utilizes the Energy Star Portfolio Manager program as a tool to track energy usage in various Town buildings and how it can be used to focus future energy projects.

2. Eversource PV & TOD Issue

Mr. Ogurick and Mr. O'Grady shared that peak variable pricing is not downloaded onto usage data.

C. Publicity/Education/Outreach

1. News articles and letters to the editor
None to report.

D. Clean Energy

1. Opportunities for additional solar car ports or PV arrays

Mr. Bombero reported that he forwarded the year to date production of the solar carport to Chairman Ogurick. A discussion about Zrec (solar renewable energy credits) credits was had by the group. Mr. Ogurick asked what it would take to get another solar carport in Town. Mr. Bombero stated that there are no incentive programs currently being offered by Eversource.

E. PBC Projects

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

Mr. Bombero reported that there was a subcommittee meeting on October 14th and the design would be discussed at the Public Building Commission on the 28th. When the schematic design is more developed, Mr. Bombero will forward the plans to the Energy Commission.

Mr. Smith asked if whether the approval of the referendum question on the November ballot has any effect on this project. Mr. Bombero stated that monies had already been appropriated for the project.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

1. Early Involvement of Eversource in all Town building projects

G. Energy Reliability Program – Update on tree trimming

Mr. Bombero stated that there is no new news to report since the September meeting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. New appointments to the Energy Commission

Mr. Ogurick reiterated that both new members, Mr. Smith and Mr. O’Grady, have backgrounds that will be an asset to the Energy Commission.

Mr. Gayeski asked if the indoor air quality in the town buildings was being addressed. Mr. Ogurick spoke about school ventilation and indoor air quality in the Town buildings with respect to the school modernization project. Mr. Ogurick relayed that the School Modernization Committee (SMZ) was polled and

indoor air quality was an area of concern that they would like to address. Mr. Gavin added that the state building code mandates specific requirements for ventilation in older buildings, three to five exchanges of air per hour and that this will likely increase the cost of the project.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Gayeski motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Smith and the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anne McBain". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Attest