

CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 30, 2020 – VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Ogurick called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was determined to be present.

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

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. October 26, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Note the following corrections:

A1.-Bus Depot Blower Door Test – Clarify that yearly energy costs could be reduced by evaluating for potential leaks and implementing other facility upgrades, which have been detailed in previous meeting minutes.

A1.- Clarify that when the Commission discussed the Town LED upgrades; it was more specifically the interior and street-light upgrades.

4.Updated HES program for residential buildings – Change “Walter” to “Walter Gayeski” who reported about the enhanced audit program.

B. 1 – Benchmarking – Replace “Town data” with “oil and propane data.”

E. PBC Projects – In response to Mr. Smith’s inquiry about the referenda question that passed at the November election, Mr. Bombero responded that there had been a previous appropriation for the Locker Room Improvement project and that this would speak to the scope of the project.

B.2-Eversource PV & TOD Issue- Omit sentence.

D. Clean Energy – Replace “incentive programs” with “open programs”

F. 1. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs – add “Nothing new to report.”

MOTION by Mr. Smith to approve the meeting minutes

SECONDED by Mr. Knudsen

VOTE The motion passed unanimously

V. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no new communications to report.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Efficiency Projects

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

Walter Gayeski reported that he communicated with Mr. Clavet via email regarding the blower door test on the DATTCO trailer and Mr. Knudsen agreed to accompany Mr. Gayeski when he performs the test.

2. MaClary Athletic Complex – LED lighting project

Mr. Bombero reports that the materials are in and installation is expected within the coming weeks. The weather will be a factor. Mr. Ogurick discussed the cost benefit of the project which includes better lighting, less maintenance costs and increased luminary and asked if Mr. Bombero could provide the commission with lighting measurements and energy savings. Mr. Bombero agreed to obtain this information from the contractor.

3. Updated HES program for residential buildings – press release

Mr. Gayeski reported that he was unable to get in touch with the Cheshire Herald to publish the press release. Mr. Knudsen shared that the program may continue to be available to residents until the end of January. The program may continue to be extended due to a shortage of qualified contractors, which has resulted in a backup of the HES audits. Mr. Ogurick asked the group if they had any suggestions on how to get this resourceful information out to residents and a discussion ensued. Mr. Smith volunteered to get the press release to the Cheshire Herald and Mr. Romania agreed to set up a link and post the press release on the Facebook Forum.

4. My Home – no cost one-on-one coaching for home energy upgrades

Mr. Knudsen shared that after the audit, the resident will be put in touch with a vendor who can perform the energy upgrades. He shared that this information would be beneficial to include in the press release. Mr. Smith questioned if the Energy Commission should promote a program that may not be able to perform the recommended energy upgrades in a timely manner. Mr. Ogurick and Mr. Smith agreed that the group should be thoughtful in how they present the program to the community. Mr. Ogurick shared that the overall benefits of the program are positive for homeowners.

B. Benchmarking

1. Energy Star Portfolio Manager – database maintenance

Mr. Romania has agreed to input the data into the program.

2. Benchmarking Training Session – 11-19-2020

Mr. Bombero will assist Mr. Romania in getting a recording of the second training session. Mr. Romania and Mr. Bombero will work together as needed to input the oil and propane data into the system. The group is awaiting a template from Professor Thompson from UCONN which will allow the group to make meaningful energy usage comparisons of similar buildings using specific metrics. Mr. Bombero agreed to follow up with Professor Thompson about the status of the template.

C. Publicity/Education/Outreach

1. News articles and letters to the editor

Mr. Ogurick made a reference to the Energy Task Force letter to Governor Ned Lamont which the Commission signed in support of forming stronger partnerships with state-level entities. Mr. Ogurick shared that the Energy Commission shares common goals of the Energy Task Force. Mr. Smith concurred that partnering with the Task Force was positive and that they could be a future resource for the Commission. Mr. Ogurick stated that saving energy for the Town is not political and expressed that he was appreciative of the support of the commission

members. Mr. Smith stated that the General Assembly meets in January to set their agenda for the year and that the Energy Commission should consider meeting prior to this if they have any items they would like added at the State level. Mr. Knudsen discussed the possibility of Community Choice Aggregation being added to the Town Council Legislative Agenda. Mr. Smith offered to discuss the specifics with Mr. Knudsen.

D. Clean Energy

1. Opportunities for additional solar car ports or PV arrays

Mr. Bombero will create a list of possible locations for additional solar carports or PV arrays for the group.

E. PBC Projects

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

Mr. Bombero reported that there were no new updates on the project which is still in the design phase. Mr. Bombero reported that there is additional funding for the project through the referenda item.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

1. Early Involvement of Eversource in all Town building project

Mr. Knudsen inquired how early involvement of Eversource will be implemented with respect to the School Modernization project. Mr. Ogurick reports that the School Modernization Committee has not consulted with the Energy Commission and according to the Cheshire Herald, there are currently options being considered, but no clear plans at this time. Mr. Ogurick reported that indoor air quality should be addressed as it is a concern of teaching staff within the schools. Mr. Bombero reported that the Police Department design is in its infancy and the HVAC is not currently being discussed. When plans are available for review, they will be shared with the Commission. Mr. Ogurick clarified that the intention of the Commission is not to delay the projects but rather to be a technological resource for the Public Building Commission.

G. Energy Reliability Program – Update on tree trimming

Mr. Bombero reported that spot work is being done as needed.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Coalition for Sustainable Cheshire and Sustainable CT Certification

Fiona Pearson, representative from the Coalition for Sustainable Cheshire, addressed the Commission. The goals and objectives of the Coalition for a Sustainable Cheshire are detailed on their webpage: <https://sustainablecheshire.wixsite.com/website> .

Ms. Pearson explained that the team was nominated by the Town Council and tasked with helping the Town achieve certification and be eligible to apply for matching grant funds. Several of the items required for achieving certification involve projects that the Energy Commission is doing or has already done such as benchmarking, community outreach, and managing green spaces. According to Ms. Pearson, the Town earns points toward the 2020 certification by completing action items that fall within nine (9) categories. For example, under action item #6 Efficient Physical Infrastructure and Operations, item 6.1 Benchmark and Track Energy Use is something that the Energy Commission is currently doing and this is worth five (5) points toward certification. The Town will need 200 cumulative points to obtain bronze certification or 400 points to obtain silver certification status. Once certification is obtained, the Town will be eligible for matching grants which will allow the Town to institute future sustainable projects and increase community outreach and involvement for Sustainable Cheshire and Sustainable CT. The members of the Energy Commission discussed the benefits of the certification. Members agreed that this program helps acknowledge what the Town and the Energy Commission are doing well in the area of sustainability and they unanimously agreed to look over the action items and collaborate with Fiona Pearson and her team in order to help the Town obtain the desired certification.

B. Approval of 2021 Meeting Dates

MOTION by Mr. Smith to approve the 2021 meeting dates.

SECONDED by Mr. Knudsen.

VOTE passed unanimously.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ogurick announced that the next meeting will be held in January unless there are items to discuss. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Gayeski and seconded by Mr. Romania. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM.

ATTEST

Anne McBain