

**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2012 AT 7:00 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Rich Ogurick (arrived at 7:55 p.m.), Walter Gayeski, Paul Michalowski
Joseph Nesdale and Carol Wilson

Commissioners Absent:

David Gavin

Staff Present:

George Noewatne, Operations Manager of Public Works; Frank Biancur, District
Maintenance Foreman for the Education Department (departed at 7:35 p.m.); and Vincent
Masciana, Director of Management Services (departed at 7:35 p.m.)

Others Present:

John Mustone of Mustone LED Illuminations (departed at 7:35 p.m.); Shannon McAvoy of
Clean Water Action (arrived at 7:45 p.m.); Joan Szechtman of 917 Ward Lane

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was present for this meeting.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. March 26, 2012 – Regular Meeting

The approval of the March 26, 2012 minutes was tabled until next month.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to the Energy Commission this month.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Management Projects

Mr. Biancur was excited to announce that the Redwood system was installed over April vacation in a first grade classroom at Highland School. The system has been up and running for one week and is running around 85% almost all the time. There were also 10 lights installed as part of the system in the hallway outside the classroom, which has been running around 30%, unless the motion sensors picks something up. The lights are automatically turned off at 5 p.m. and come back on at 7 a.m. Mr. Biancur stated that the system has been working well and the installation was done all in house by his staff. Mr. Biancur and Mr. Masciana have invited the Energy Commission to hold their next meeting at Highland School so they can tour the classroom to see the system. Mr. Biancur also noted that CL & P has given a 40% rebate toward the purchase of the Redwood system.

Mr. Masciana informed the Commission that Highland School is the first school in the country to install the Redwood system. He showed the Commissioners that he can do real time monitoring of the system from his iPad and noted that motion and heat can also be monitored through this system, which could be helpful also to the Police Department and Fire Department.

John Mustone, of Mustone LED Illuminations was present to speak to the Energy Commission as the representative for the Redwood system. Mr. Mustone shared some of the usage graphs for the first week and projected that the fluorescent lights in the classroom used approximately 3,432 kWh per year at an estimated cost of \$583 per year, per classroom. Mr. Mustone is estimating that with the use of the Redwood system the same classroom will use 432 kWh with the LED lights at a cost of \$73.44 per year, per classroom. There are 56 classrooms at Highland School.

Mr. Masciana stated that he would like to ask Ameresco to incorporate the Redwood system into their plan for the schools. Although the initial cost of the system is expense, it generates a huge savings and with the CL & P 40% rebate it is really worth it. The estimated rate of return if the Redwood System was purchased for the whole school, at a cost of \$720,000 is approximately 4 – 5 years. Mr. Biancur noted that they could not use the Redwood system in the gymnasium because the ceiling is too high, otherwise every room in the school could be switched over to this system. It was noted that the savings of maintenance costs, fluorescent bulb disposal fees, ballast and new fluorescent bulbs was not incorporated into the projected savings with using the Redwood system. Mr. Biancur again added that he thought this was a fantastic product.

1) Remaining Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) projects

As part of the grant rules, the EECBG grant of \$108,000 that was awarded to Cheshire needs to be spent by June 30, 2012 and the Town has to “buy American”, if available, for most products related to the grant projects.

a) Virtual desktop environment - thin client devices

Mr. Masciana stated they have been researching the thin client devices and believe the best choice for the schools is from Wyse most importantly because of the energy it takes to run their product; 7 kWh vs. a PC at 75 kWh. Mr. Masciana stated that they are still finalizing the cost but feel the more energy efficient product will be the best choice, compared to the product originally proposed. CL & P has said they will offer a 40% rebate on the purchase of these thin client devices and the schools are planning to install them over the Summer.

2) Exterior lighting improvements at police station, CHS and Highland School

Mr. Biancur stated that more than half of the exterior lights at Cheshire High School have been installed.

Mr. Noewatne stated the Cheshire Police Department exterior induction lighting has been ordered and should be installed by mid June, before the grant ends.

3) Town-wide ESPC project – Ameresco Energy Audit

Mr. Noewatne stated that representatives from Ameresco have been in Town at various Town buildings. It was stated that Chairman Ogurick has emailed the Commissioners with a status of the buildings that Ameresco have been to and they do seem to be making good progress.

4) Community Pool – dehumidification; CHP

It was noted that the Cheshire Community Pool dehumidification system is still in the design phase.

5) Energy audits at Boulder Knoll House and Lock 12 House

Mr. Noewatne reported that the energy audits have been completed at the Boulder Knoll house and Lock 12 house. He stated that he would get a copy of the audit reports from the tenants of the two buildings so the Town could review the proposed changes, noting that the renters pay the utilities for their house.

B. Benchmarking

1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager-database maintenance

Mr. Noewatne stated that as part of the performance grade audit, Ameresco will be entering at least 1 year work of data for the Town buildings. After July 1st there is money in the new Operating Budget to hire someone who will maintain the data going forward for the Town.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

1) News articles and letters to the editor

Mr. Michalowski shared a March 28th Record Journal newspaper article entitled "Energy-efficiency bill advances" with the Commissioners.

D. Clean Energy

The Connecticut Clean Energy Fund is now known as the Connecticut Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority, which is a result of the State restructuring implemented by Governor Malloy, effective July 1, 2011.

1) 30% by 2015– status

Ms. Wilson stated that she did not have an update on Cheshire's points in the 30% by 2015 program.

2) Semi-annual report on the Community Innovations Grant Program

There was no update regarding the semi-annual report for the Community Innovations Grant Program.

E. PBC Projects

1) Roof at Police Station

Mr. Gayeski stated that the insulation R-value has been increased to R-30 for the roof replacement project at the Cheshire Police Station. Mr. Noewatne reported that the Police Station roof project went out to bid today.

2) Roof at PW Garage

Mr. Gayeski stated that the insulation R-value has been increased to R-30 for the roof replacement project at the Public Works garage. Mr. Noewatne reported that the Public Works roof project will go out to bid later this Summer.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

1) Early involvement of CL & P and YGS in all upcoming energy projects – Energy Blueprint

Commissioners talked about their continued desire to have the upcoming roof projects as well as all Town projects reviewed by CL & P's Energy Blueprint program.

G. CL & P Energy Reliability Program

It was noted that the CL & P tree trimming crews have been seen around Town a lot, recently.

H. Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge

Ms. McAvoy reported that Town Council Chairman, Tim Slocum, has agreed to be at the Hitchcock Phillips house when the energy audit is done, as part of Neighbor to Neighbor's Lead by Example campaign. It has been suggested that a mass Lead by Example campaign with a public pledge of support be organized, which Cheshire has already done but could do it again as a statement of re-commitment to the program to help re-ignite the message.

MOTION by Joe Nesdale that the Energy Commission supports the public signing of the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge and supports a re-launch in Cheshire of their campaign, in conjunction with other towns in Connecticut.
SECONDED by Paul Michalowski.

VOTE: In Favor – Gayeski, Michalowski, Nesdale, Ogurick and Wilson
Opposed – none

The motion passes 5 – 0.

1) Personnel / Organizational

There were no changes to the Neighbor to Neighbor program reported at this meeting.

2) Strategic Outreach – update

a) *Home Energy Basics* workshops

There was a puppet show recently that representatives from Neighbor to Neighbor attended and got 1 sign up.

b) Home & Garden Expo – 4/14/12

At the recent Home & Garden Expo there were 7 sign ups for HES and 1 lighting sign up.

c) giveHES

Ms. McAvoy reported that Sally Bowman Real Estate has been a great contact for the Neighbor to Neighbor program and has presented 30 giveHES certificates to their clients.

d) Cheshire Social Services

Ms. McAvoy stated that she would follow up with Cheshire Social Services Department.

e) All-partner meeting on 3/29/12

An All-partner meeting was held on March 29th.

f) Oil & propane customers

The availability of funds for oil and propane customers as of June 30th was discussed.

g) Lancaster Way neighborhood canvass on 4/26/12

Ms. McAvoy reported that the first neighborhood canvass was done last week in the area of Lancaster Way. The canvass was announced twice by the Town Council and there were some Cheshire High School volunteers that helped out. On Monday of the canvass letters were hand delivered to the homes and then representatives were back at the houses on Thursday to talk to the property owners. During the canvass there 12 HES sign ups and 1 lighting sign up.

2 more canvasses are being planned, one on May 10th and one on June 14th in 2 separate neighborhoods, which Mr. Conway is selecting.

3) Goals

a) New HES / HES-IE audits

Ms. McAvoy reported that new goals have been set for the 2nd Quarter of 2012: new HES audits = 85 sign ups, 20 lighting and 2 upgrades.

b) Post-HES work (insulation, water heating, etc.) – “deeper energy savings”

Representatives were at a climate change seminar at the Cheshire Public Library last week and approximately 6 attendees were interested in energy efficiency upgrades for their home.

4) Score

a) Leaderboard

The updated Leaderboard for the Neighbor to Neighbor program shows Cheshire around 8th place, according to Ms. McAvoy.

b) New Community Group Rewards Program

The new Community Group Rewards Program was not discussed during this meeting.

5) Town Energy Dashboard – data from all 14 towns

With regards to the Personal Energy Dashboard for those that have had a HES audit done, Chairman Ogurick stated that he has been able to activate his "dashboard".

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A) Election of Officers

MOTION by Carol Wilson to re-elect Rich Ogurick as the Chairman of the Energy Commission; **SECONDED** by Joe Nesdale.

VOTE: In Favor – Gayeski, Michalowski, Nesdale, Ogurick and Wilson
Opposed – none

The motion passes 5 – 0.

MOTION by Paul Michalowski to elect Walter Gayeski as the Vice Chairman of the Energy Commission; **SECONDED** by Carol Wilson.

VOTE: In Favor – Gayeski, Michalowski, Nesdale, Ogurick and Wilson
Opposed – none

The motion passes 5 – 0.

MOTION by Carol Wilson to re-elect Paul Michalowski as the Secretary of the Energy Commission; **SECONDED** by Rich Ogurick.

VOTE: In Favor – Gayeski, Michalowski, Nesdale, Ogurick and Wilson
Opposed – none

The motion passes 5 – 0.

B) APES – Making a difference Project – green roofs at CHS

Chairman Ogurick stated that the Advanced Placement Engineering Science class at Cheshire High School would like to talk about a "green" project with the Energy Commission and will likely come to talk to the Commission in the Fall.

- C) ZREC and LREC programs to incentivize zero (distributed solar, wind) and low energy renewables (fuel cells) - \$1 billion renewable energy credit program

Chairman Ogurick stated that these are programs for zero or low emissions for renewable energy credits. He noted that Ameresco should be taking a position on the Town's behalf for these projects.

- D) RFP for On-site Anaerobic Digestion

Chairman Ogurick stated that Ameresco should be asked to look at Anaerobic Digestion when they are reviewing the Water Pollution Control Plant, during their energy audit.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Joe Nesdale to adjourn the Energy Commission meeting at 8:40 p.m.;
SECONDED by Rich Ogurick.

VOTE: In Favor – Gayeski, Michalowski, Nesdale, Ogurick and Wilson
Opposed – none

The motion passes 5 – 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary