

**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2012 AT 7:00 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Rich Ogurick, David Gavin, Walter Gayeski, Joseph Nesdale and Carol Wilson

Commissioners Absent:

Paul Michalowski

Staff Present:

George Noewatne, Operations Manager of Public Works; Frank Biancur, District Maintenance Foreman for the Education Department (departed at 8:05 p.m.)

Others Present:

Shannon McAvoy of Clean Water Action (departed at 7:50 p.m.); Jeff Crawford of Clean Energy Corp / Student Conservation Association (departed at 7:50 p.m.); Joan Szechtman of 917 Ward Lane

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Ogurick called the meeting to order at 7:01 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. February 27, 2012 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Rich Ogurick to accept the February 27, 2012 Energy Commission regular meeting minutes with the corrections noted below. **SECONDED** by Carol Wilson.

Corrections to the February 27, 2012 Energy Commission minutes: Page 7, last paragraph the correct spelling is “eesmarts”; Page 10, first paragraph, last sentence, should read “If it is not an issue of security...”

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

The motion passes 5 – 0.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to the Energy Commission this month.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Management Projects

- 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. Biancur informed the Energy Commission that Mr. Masciani was going ahead with plans to purchase “thin client” devices this month for the Cheshire schools, adding that there will be a CL & P rebate on the devices.

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

Mr. Biancur stated that all but 26 lights have ben upgraded at Cheshire High School, he added that he is waiting for more funds to become available to complete the project. Mr. Biancur is receiving a 40% rebate from CL & P for the new exterior lighting.

Mr. Noewatne stated that the Cheshire Police Department exterior induction and LED lighting has been ordered by Standard Electric.

Exterior lighting at Highland School has been put on hold for now due to the work being done for mold remediation at Cheshire High School.

3) Town-wide ESPC project – Ameresco Energy Audit

Chairman Ogurick stated that there was a kick off meeting on Thursday @ 11:30am for the Energy Savings Performance Contract with Ameresco now that all the contracts have been signed. Mr. Gavin asked if the Cheshire Community Pool will be a priority with Ameresco's work? He noted that BL Construction is working on design plans for a dehumidification system for the Cheshire Community Pool.

4) Redwood environmental control system (lighting, temperature)

At Highland School, Mr. Biancur will be installing the Redwood System with 25 LED lights in a First Grade classroom and section of the hallway during April vacation. The Redwood System has the potential to save 73% in energy costs, per classroom and Mr. Biancur will be comparing the wattage used in this classroom with the room next to it.

5) Community Pool – dehumidification; CHP

Mr. Gavin stated that the Town has to meet the new building code because a new bubble was installed therefore a dehumidification system is now required for the Cheshire Community Pool. Lou Cohen has recommended to the Pool Subcommittee that they stay away from refrigeration systems and has made some recommendations, such as using heat wheel technology. It was also noted that the new bubble will have to be cut during the dehumidification system install.

Currently the Cheshire Community Pool is operating under a temporary Certificate of Occupancy but a permanent Certificate of Occupancy will be needed in the Fall when the bubble enclosure is put back up.

Chairman Ogurick is encouraging the Pool Subcommittee to also look at life cycle cost analysis when they are making their choice for the dehumidification system. Mr. Gavin noted that the next Public Building Commission meeting is scheduled for April 4th and BL may have a design plan ready for that meeting. If so, the plans may move to the Town Council in May for approval.

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

Ms. McAvoy stated that the house at Lock 12 had their HES audit visit today. She suggested that once the audit is scheduled for the Hitchcock Phillip House, she would have press there to help promote HES audits. Mr. Noewatne commented that he believes that building needs to be done as a business HES audit because no one lives there, which is what he was told. Mr. Gayeski stated that EcoSmart will do the Hitchcock Phillips House HES visit.

B. Benchmarking

1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager-database maintenance - status of new hire

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 a new hire in the Town's Finance Department will be entering Energy Star information going forward.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

Ms. Wilson talked about the Clean Action list of resources for homeowners, which she believes is valuable information to share with the Community. Chairman Ogurick stated that he would contact Mr. Takizawa and ask him to get in touch with Ms. Szechtman, who has offered to take over maintaining the Energy Commission web site.

1) News articles and letters to the editor

There were no recent news articles discussed at this meeting.

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

Chairman Ogurick stated that Cheshire currently has 374 points in the 30% by 2015 program.

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

Chairman Ogurick stated that he thought that Mr. Noewatne had done the semi-annual report for the Community Innovations Grant Program but Mr. Noewatne didn't recall doing it in the past. Chairman Ogurick stated that he would look to find the previous report.

3) Revised residential solar incentive program - \$2,450 / kW

Chairman Ogurick talked about making sure the community is aware of the revised incentive program for solar products.

E. PBC Projects

Mr. Noewatne will get the contact information for CL & P and Yankee Gas representatives to Mr. Gayeski and Mr. Gavin for the Blue Print program so they can be involved in early planning discussions for Public Building Commission projects in Cheshire.

1) Roof at Police Station

Mr. Gavin noted that the funding is already in place for the Cheshire Police Department roof project. The design work will be starting soon and solar elements will be considered.

2) Roof at PW Garage

Mr. Noewatne stated that the Public Works Garage has been designed but there is no funding yet for this project. It is hoped that the project can be completed this Fall after the Capital Budget process is completed. The roofing project is for the truck storage building on Waterbury Road; there is heat but no air conditioning in the building.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

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

Mr. Gavin stated that he would bring this up to the Public Building Commission Chairman, Mr. Purtill.

G. CL & P Energy Reliability Program

- 1) CL & P tree trimming budget increased \$27 million to \$53.5 million

Chairman Ogurick noted that CL & P's tree trimming budget has recently doubled.

H. Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge

- 1) Personnel / Organizational changes

Jeff Crawford was present at the Energy Commission and it was stated that he would be replacing Stacy Stone and working with Cheshire, going forward.

- 2) Strategic Outreach – update

Mr. Crawford is exploring the idea of canvassing neighborhoods in Cheshire for the Neighbor to Neighbor program. If anyone has suggested neighborhoods, please contact Mr. Crawford or Ms. McAvoy.

- a) *Home Energy Basics* workshops

Mr. Crawford is working with Ms. Wilson to schedule the next Children's workshop either at the Cheshire Public Library or at the Methodist Church. Representatives of the Neighbor to Neighbor program will be at the Cheshire High School Career Day.

- b) Energy Workshop for children – Cheshire Public Library

The energy workshop for kids that was planned for October 29th at Cheshire Public Library was snowed out. The workshop was to target Kindergarten through 5th graders. All involved are trying to re-schedule the kids workshop.

- c) User testimonials – Tim Slocum

Mr. Crawford stated that Tim Slocum's testimonial about his HES Audit experience is almost done.

- d) Home & Garden Expo – 4/14/12

Mr. Crawford stated that representatives for the Neighbor to Neighbor program will be at the Chamber of Commerce's Home &

Garden Expo on Saturday, April 14th at Cheshire High School. Chairman Ogurick asked if any Commission members were able to attend and Mr. Gayeski stated that he will try to attend. Chairman Ogurick also stated he may be there in the morning.

e) Town Council presentation on 3/13/12

Ms. McAvoy was at the March 13th Town Council meeting to refresh the community about the Neighbor to Neighbor program.

f) give HES

Ms. McAvoy stated that she has an appointment to talk to Sally Bowman of Sally Bowman Real Estate about this program that could be used with new home buyers.

g) Cheshire Social Services

Ms. McAvoy reported that Michele in the Social Services Department has not gotten back to her. Chairman Ogurick stated that he would contact Town Manager Milone.

3) Goals

a) New HES / HES-IE audits

Mr. Crawford noted that Cheshire has reached 40% of its goal during the 1st Quarter of 2012. He is in the process of setting 2nd Quarter goals. At the recent CPFA Arts Day program there were about 500 people in attendance and 8 signups were received for the Neighbor to Neighbor program.

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

Mr. Crawford talked about an upcoming Coalition Partnership meeting set for this Thursday at the Cheshire Public Library to promote the Neighbor to Neighbor program and make sure everyone is working together.

4) Score

a) Leaderboard

The updated Leaderboard for the Neighbor to Neighbor program shows Cheshire in 6th place. Mr. Crawford is working on getting the missing utility release forms from Cheshire HES homes so that Cheshire gets their points for the visits.

b) Community Group Points – status

The second round started November 1st and runs until April 30th.

5) Personal Energy Dashboard – Snugg Home

It was noted that the Personal Energy Dashboard for those that have had a HES audit done, is not on the Neighbor to Neighbor website.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1) APES – Making a Difference Project – green roofs at CHS

The Advanced Placement Environmental Studies group at Cheshire High School would like to put up a green roof in Town. Mr. Noewatne noted that an engineering study was done where they first suggested the green roof and showed that it wouldn't hold the weight of such a project. APES would like to make a presentation to the Energy Commission at their April meeting.

2) Eesmarts contest – awards ceremony 5/22/12

The Eesmarts contest aware ceremony is scheduled for May 22nd, information about the contest can be found on CL & P's website.

3) Leading by Example – New Energy Opportunities for Municipalities
4/3/12

Chairman Ogurick noted that there will be a meeting on April 3rd regarding new energy opportunities for municipalities and he suggested that someone from the Town attend the meeting to get the information.

4) New Clean Energy Communities program and State Energy Savings
Performance Contracting program 4/3/12

Ms. Wilson talked about the Clean Energy Task Force meeting that was held on Saturday saying that there was a lot of information to be shared at

the meeting. She also added that she hopes other Commission members will attend a future meeting. At this meeting it was announced that the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is starting a State Performance Contracting program; there will be a meeting on April 3rd to start discussions on the program. The State is looking for central locations for information sessions about this program and Ms. Wilson hopes that Cheshire can host one of them.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Rich Ogurick to adjourn the Energy Commission meeting at 9:40 p.m.;
SECONDED by Paul Michalowski.

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

The motion passes 5 – 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary