

**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Rich Ogurick, Walter Gayeski, Phil Newton, Joseph Nesdale and Carol Wilson

Commissioners Absent:

David Gavin

Staff Present:

Walter Gancarz, Operations Manager/Town Engineer and Frank Biancur, District Maintenance Foreman for the Education Department (departed at 7:55 p.m.)

Others Present:

Tim White of Cheshire, CT; Joan Szechtman of 917 Ward Lane; Erin O’Neil and Will Fogel of Next Step Living (departed at 7:30 p.m.)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ogurick 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. September 30, 2013 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Carol Wilson to accept the minutes of the September 30, 2013 regular meeting minutes with the following corrections: Page 2, Item A # 1, last sentence of first paragraph should read, "...possibly using a package unit with heat and air

conditioning.”; Page 3, Item A # 2, should read, “...Tension Membrane Structure with steel trusses that will...”; Page 6, New Business Item B, last sentence should read, “...most sites do not charge users to plug their vehicles in and charge it.”
SECONDED by Joe Nesdale.

VOTE: In Favor – Gayeski, Nesdale, Newton, Ogurick and Wilson
Opposed – None

The motion passed 5 – 0.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to the Energy Commission.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Efficiency Projects

1) Town-wide ESPC project – scope of work; Ameresco contract

Mr. Biancur stated that he and other Town representatives would be meeting face to face with representatives from Ameresco this week to keep things moving forward with developing the scope of work for the ESPC proposal. He noted that all classrooms and hallways in all of the schools will be converted to LED lights as well as some of the cafeterias. He also stated that the ESPC projects will include expanding Automated Logistics' Energy Management Services for all the school buildings in Cheshire as well as having a central program for access to all lighting via the internet.

When asked, Mr. Biancur stated that the weekly conference call to work on developing the scope of work for the ESPC has been occurring almost every Thursday.

Mr. Gancarz stated that within a few weeks the investment grade audit should be started in Cheshire. The Town Council will likely send the next step of the ESPC process with Ameresco to their Planning Committee for their review. The Town Manager has stated that he would like this step finalized by late February or early March, before the Town goes forward with the next Operating Budget planning.

The signing of Ameresco's ESPC contract is still pending with the Town of Cheshire.

Mr. Biancur noted that if the Town Council approves the ESPC proposal by March 1st the work to upgrade the school lighting could get started in April. He also noted that the brand of LED lighting that is proposed for this project is Lunera. Mr. Biancur added that the gyms and school offices are not included in this plan.

- 2) Community Pool – enclosure decision going to referendum; lighting options

Mr. Biancur, from the Education Department, has agreed to work with Mr. Gavin to come up with energy efficient lighting suggestions for the proposed pool enclosure.

According to an email that Mr. Gavin sent to the Energy Commission to update them on the status of the Pool Subcommittee activity, the proposed Tension Membrane Structure will be on the November 5th referendum. He also stated that RFP's for this proposed project would not be sent out until after the vote, if the voters approve the project. If the project is approved, construction will not start until the Spring of 2014.

Mr. Gayeski commented that it seemed to him that a decision was made that a cover for the pool for this Winter "wasn't worth it", while the pool is left heated to around 50 degrees and exposed for the Winter.

MOTION by Walter Gayeski that the Energy Commission makes a request to the Park & Recreation Department, Pool Subcommittee and Park & Recreation Commission that the calculations used to determine the cost effectiveness of a pool cover be submitted back to the Energy Commission by November 8, 2013 for their review. **SECONDED** by Joe Nesdale

VOTE: In Favor – Gayeski, Nesdale, Newton, Ogurick and Wilson
Opposed – None

The motion passed 5 – 0.

- 3) DOE Grant / N2N - \$ 5,000 for computers and tablets at Cheshire Public Library

The Cheshire Public Library recently purchased computers and tablets using a \$5,000 grant that was received through the Neighbor to Neighbor program

B. Benchmarking

- 1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager-new software version; electronic data entry

Mr. Gancarz stated that once Ameresco gets their performance contract signed with the Town they will bring the Energy Star Portfolio Manager program data up to date from 2009 to present.

- 2) Energy Data / Information Meeting – SourceOne to discuss PA 11-80 (electronic feeds of energy usage); Bill 6360 (EnergyStar scoring requirements)

Mr. Gancarz stated that the Energy Data / Information Meeting with SourceOne has not been held yet on the above mentioned topics.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

Ms. Wilson suggested that the Energy Commission should create an award for local individuals or groups that go above and beyond to generate energy savings in Cheshire.

MOTION by Joe Nesdale to create an “Outstanding Energy Achiever” recognition award for an entity in our community that demonstrates and impacts energy savings in Cheshire and shows leaderships in outstanding energy management. **SECONDED** by Phil Newton.

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

The motion passes 5– 0.

MOTION by Carol Wilson that Ramona Burkey, Director of the Cheshire Public Library, be awarded the 1st “Outstanding Energy Achiever” award from the Energy Commission. **SECONDED** by Joe Nesdale.

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

The motion passes 5– 0.

1) News articles and letters to the editor

There were no energy related articles discussed at this meeting of the Energy Commission.

D. Clean Energy

1) 20% by 2020

There was no update given on the 20% by 2020 program during this meeting of the Energy Commission.

2) Solarize Cheshire – 20 week pilot; choice of vendors; launch 11/14/13

The launch date for Solarize Cheshire has been moved to November 14th at 7pm in Town Council Chambers. Solarize Cheshire will run for 20 weeks through to April 8th, 2014.

CEFIA had issued an RFP for several towns, looking for solar panel installers. The selection process was started last month with the help of Jon Fischer, Carol Wilson and Walt Gancarz. The Cheshire group has narrowed down the possible installers to 5 from the 7 that submitted proposals. The final 3 installers chosen for Solarize Cheshire are: All Green It Solar, Astrum Solar and RGS Energy.

Mr. Gancarz mentioned that there is some concern with sending a mixed message to Cheshire residents if Solarize Cheshire and Next Step Living are too closely connected, as they are separate programs. Chairman Ogurick agreed that the two should be kept separate and stated that he would contact Mrs. Week of Next Step Living and ask that they do not send representatives to the Solarize Cheshire launch.

Mr. White noted that representatives from the 3 solar installers for Cheshire will be at the November 8th varsity football game with information for the Community about Solarize Cheshire. He also talked about having high school students at each of the polling locations in Cheshire to hand out flyers and display posters and information on an easel. Mr. Gancarz stated that he would look into helping print up some posters.

Mr. White noted that the Solarize Cheshire website is up and running at www.solarizect.com/Cheshire.

The Solarize Cheshire banner will be rotated between Town Hall, the Cheshire Public Library and Cheshire Senior Center. Ms. Wilson noted that the annual Food Drive will be held on the Town Green this weekend, which could be another location to publicize Solarize Cheshire.

Ms. Wilson commented that she would be speaking to the Town Clergy Group about the Solarize Cheshire program. Mr. White stated that the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce and Cheshire Public Library will be promoting the program in their upcoming newsletters.

The launch event for Solarize Cheshire will be videotaped and re-played on Cox Communications cable channel 14.

3) Next Step Living – solar pilot for N2N participants

Next Step Living will be doing a limited marketing of their solar program to Neighbor to Neighbor participants. Commissioners expressed some concern that this program will be a conflict for the Solarize Cheshire program.

4) Clean Energy Communities Program – pledge to be reviewed by Council's Planning Committee

The Town Council Planning Committee will be reviewing the Energy Commission's request to renew Cheshire's pledge to be a Clean Energy Community at their November 12th meeting. It was noted that if the Town Council renews the pledge, Cheshire will get a \$10,000 grant and be eligible for additional funding through this program.

E. PBC Projects

There were no new PBC Projects for the Energy Commission to review at this time.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

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

There was nothing new to report on CL & P and Yankee Gas' Energy Blueprint programs; Commissioners have agreed that this program at CL & P should review all Town projects.

G. CL & P Energy Reliability Program

Tree trimming work continues around Town as part of Cheshire's Energy Reliability Program and as a means of protecting residents from unsafe limbs.

H. Next Step Living

1) Impact Report

Chairman Ogurick introduced Erin O'Neil and Will Fogel, both Community Representatives from Next Step Living that were present to speak with the Commission.

Ms. O'Neil reviewed the Executive Summary for Next Step Living's solar program since holding their workshop in July 2013. She stated that there were 123 prospects collected in July 2013 and 101 HES assessments scheduled since January 2013. Currently 24 insulation installations are scheduled with 7 ductless mini-split systems installed since August in Cheshire.

Mr. O'Neil stated that Next Step Living is working with the Cheshire YMCA to hold workshops and to do some tabling during their events. Mr. Fogel commented that Next Step Living is excited about what has been done so far and what can be done to build on this.

Next Step Living has expressed interest in working with the Solarize Cheshire program that will be launching soon.

Chairman Ogurick stated that those residents that are interested in having a solar installation done should first do a HES audit of their home. Mr. White noted that the Energize Connecticut website has a listing of all HES contractors in Connecticut.

Chairman Ogurick asked how Cheshire compares to other towns in Connecticut for this program. Ms. O'Neil replied that Cheshire is doing pretty well and is in line with similar towns.

Chairman Ogurick stated that doing and HES audit of a home is great but the next step a homeowner takes is really what counts in energy savings.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs – gathering on improving CT’s energy efficiency programs, Wednesday, Nov. 20, 7pm – 9pm, 1st Congregational Church, 62 Colony St., Meriden

Ms. Wilson stated that she is a member of the Connecticut Roundtable of Climate and Jobs. She noted that the purpose of the Roundtable is to encourage renewable installations and provide jobs. The next meeting of the Roundtable will be November 20th at 7pm at the 1st Congregational Church on Colony Street in Meriden.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Joseph Nesdale to adjourn the Energy Commission meeting at 9:00 p.m.;
SECONDED by Walt Gayeski.

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

The motion passes 5– 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary