

AGENDA
CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION
MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2022, 7:00 PM
Via Zoom

*Public access made available through live streaming on YouTube at
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4_xey3QjJmwe57R_6K94Dw*

*Public comments accepted at Comments@cheshirect.org and by voice mail message at 203 271-6638.
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I. CALL TO ORDER

II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. February 28, 2022

V. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Thank you note from Matt Planeta, Den Leader, Cub Scout Pack 114

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Energy Efficiency Projects
 - 1. CHP at Cheshire Community Pool - current operating rate
 - 2. Bartlem Park concession stand – energy waste
- B. Benchmarking
 - 1. Energy Star Portfolio Manager – database input and maintenance
 - 2. New municipal energy efficiency/cost savings opportunities
- C. Publicity/Education/Outreach
 - 1. News articles and letters to the editor
 - 2. Outreach advertisement – Chris Smith
- D. Clean Energy
 - 1. Opportunities for additional solar car ports or PV arrays, charging stations
- E. PBC Projects
- F. Grants, Rebates, & Utility Programs
 - 1. Early involvement of Eversource in all town building projects
 - 2. Spreadsheet of important dates – programs and grants
- G. Energy Reliability Program
 - 1. Update on tree trimming
- H. Coalition for Sustainable Cheshire
 - 1. Benchmark and Track Energy Use – information on Portfolio Manager for Silver Status for Sustainable CT
- I. School Modernization – resources for high performance schools

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. SB 423 Indoor Air Quality in Public School Classrooms
- B. Replacing Single-Speed Pool Pumps with Variable Speed Pumps for Energy Savings -
<https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy12osti/54242.pdf>

**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 28, 2022 - VIRTUAL ZOOM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was present.

Commission Members Present:

Mr. Richard Ogurick (Chairman)
Mr. Dan Knudsen
Mr. Ryan O'Grady
Mr. David Gavin
Mr. Chris Smith

Staff Present: Mr. Daniel Bombero, Capital Projects Manager

Others Present: Mr. Planeta, Den Leader (Pack 114, Highland School)
Arrow of Light Den Members (Pack 114 Highland School)

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

As a courtesy, Chairman Ogurick moved to address Agenda Item VII. "New Business", B. - Arrow of Light Den from Pack 114 – Cub Scout Merit Badge.

Mr. Ogurick introduced the leader of the Arrow of Light Den, Mr. Planeta, and the scouts to all those present. Mr. Ogurick shared that the members of the Arrow of Light Den were working towards earning a merit badge, which required them to identify an energy problem in Town and learn how it was being resolved.

Chairman Ogurick provided the den with an overview of energy and how energy is measured. The Chairman identified energy costs as being a significant energy problem. He further explained how solar projects such as the solar carport at the Police Station, the Solar Array at the Dog Park and the Solar Panels on the Library Roof are all ways the Town generates energy at reduced costs.

Chairman Ogurick discussed the School Modernization initiative and the possibility of building two (2) new elementary schools with the Den. He shared that another way to reduce energy costs was to make sure that if these schools are built with energy efficiency as the primary consideration. He explained that the community should consider "net zero" schools that do not depend on the grid for energy. Mr. Ogurick shared that energy efficient lighting, efficient windows, and efficient heating and cooling systems should also be communicated to the public as they vote.

The Chairman discussed renewable and nonrenewable energy sources with the group. Chairman Ogurick fielded questions from the Den. Lastly, he suggested the students may want to do a cost comparison between gas powered and electric vehicles. Mr. Ogurick thanked the group for their interest and the group signed off the meeting.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. January 31, 2022 - Meeting Minutes

MOTION by Mr. Knudsen to approve the Meeting Minutes from January 31, 2022.

SECONDED by Mr. O'Grady

VOTE unanimous.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

No communications were presented to the group.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Efficiency Projects

1. CHP at Cheshire Community Pool – current operating rate

Mr. Gavin shared that he contacted Aegis Energy and pool director, Sheila Adams to discuss the current operating rate of the cogeneration unit, which is still not operating at its maximum efficiency. Mr. Bombero shared that the issues with the boilers may be affecting the efficiency of the unit, however, there was still an energy savings of \$26,000.00 last year, as reported by Aegis Energy. Mr. Gavin stated that the savings could be as much as \$40,000. Mr. Bombero agreed to reach out to Sheila Adams and John Gawiak.

2. Bartlem Park Concession Stand – energy waste

Mr. Bombero shared that the Grounds Division was evaluating the concession stand with an electrician and will follow up with additional information.

B. Benchmarking

1. Energy Star Portfolio Manager – database input and maintenance

Mr. Smith will coordinate with Mr. Bombero to compile the omitted data and input into the system.

2. New municipal energy efficiency/cost savings opportunities.

Mr. Ogurick inquired about the list of opportunities that Mr. Smith and Mr. Gavin were creating. Mr. Gavin shared that there are energy efficiency and cost savings opportunities in building net zero schools, at the pool, and at the police department. A group discussion ensued.

Mr. Bombero discussed that the solar farm at the Dog Park and the solar carport were successful Town projects whereby the Town hired a consultant to apply for credits and then put the project out to bid. Mr. Bombero shared that this process resulted in competitive pricing and was in the best interest of the Town. Dan will consult with the Town Manager's office to determine the most effective steps the Commission should take in order to pursue the option of engaging a third party consultant for additional solar opportunities.

C. Publicity/Education/Outreach

1. News articles and letters to the editor
No new updates were provided.

D. Clean Energy

1. Opportunities for additional solar car ports or PV Arrays, charging stations
This item was discussed under agenda item (B.2)

E. PBC Projects

1. Quinnipiac Park Bathroom renovation project

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

1. Early Involvement of Eversource in all Town building projects
2. Spreadsheet of important dates – programs and grants

Mr. Smith discussed the role and long range goals of the Energy Commission. He discussed the possibility of an energy strategy or a policy which would have a long range impact on educating the community about energy. The group discussed ways in which the commission could maximize their advisory role in energy related Town projects. Mr. Smith said that he would continue to compile a tracking spreadsheet of important deadlines and grant opportunities. He currently only has one entry provided by Mr. Knudsen and looks forward to participation by the other members of the commission.

G. Energy Reliability Program

1. Update on tree trimming

No new updates were presented.

H. Coalition for Sustainable Cheshire

1. Benchmark and Track Energy Use – information for Silver Status for Sustainable CT

Chairman Ogurick shared that the Coalition for Sustainable CT should have no difficulty obtaining silver status by adopting what the Energy Commission is already doing. Mr. Knudsen has not been able to connect with Ms. Pearson to date. He will follow up with her report to the group in March.

I. School Modernization – resources for high performance schools

Chairman Ogurick reports that he has corresponded with the Board of Education and members of the Town Council in order to make sure that the window of opportunity is not missed for the Commission to act in their advisory capacity for the projected project. Mr. Smith suggested that the Energy Commission may want to consider meeting with the Town Council for 15 minutes two (2) times each year to brief the Council on energy related items. The group discussed the matter and considered a more organized approach for the commission to get involved in energy related projects. The group also discussed using the local newspaper as a way to educate resident's about energy related items. Mr. Smith agreed to draft the ad and will present it at the March meeting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. CT Residential Renewable Energy Solutions (RRES)

This item was not discussed.

B. Arrow of Light Den from Pack 114 – Cub Scout Merit Badge

This agenda item was addressed at the beginning of the meeting.

C. Federal Support for EV Charging Stations Announced – CT allotment = \$7,771,342.00

The group had a brief discussion about this item. Mr. Bombero shared that the Public Works Department is looking into the feasibility of purchasing an electric van, however, there are currently no electric vehicles in the fleet.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Smith shared that he will be unavailable for the April meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. O'Grady and the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 PM.

ATTEST

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anne McBain", is written over a horizontal line.

Anne McBain, Acting Secretary