I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was not present for this meeting.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 28, 2010 – Regular Meeting

There was no quorum therefore no action could be taken on the minutes for the June 28, 2010 regular meeting of the Energy Commission.
V. COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Ogurick stated that he had received a call from Chris Blue at Johnson Controls inquiring about the status of performance contracting in Town.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Management Projects

1) Cheshire Public Library – status of energy upgrades

Mr. Michaelangelo stated that there has been no change with the status of the energy upgrades at the Cheshire Public Library.

2) 30% by 2015 – proposal to Town Council; baseline

Councilman White reported that he has asked the Town Council to include an energy savings goal of 6% per year, for the next 5 years, to the Town Manager’s Goals and Objectives, which reflects the Federal Guidelines of 30% by 2015 program. Ms. Wilson commented that changing behavior habits and eliminating waste will play a big part in reducing the energy consumption in Town.

3) 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 2012 and the Town has to “buy American”, if available, for all products related to the grant projects.

a) Computer time management software – software demos

Mr. Masciana stated that the Information Technology is working on a number of projects; he noted that the computer time management software program has been given a medium priority and will be addressed in the Fall.

Chairman Ogurick stated that the Energy Commission had bought the initial software program over a year ago and was under the impression that the software was being used at Highland School and ready to be expanded to the other schools. He noted that there is a $12,000 allocation for this item with the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant.
b) TV monitor controls

Mr. Masciana commented that they will have to get a letter from the supplier stating that the TV monitor timers are not available from an American company, to meet the Grant guidelines. The schools will need 280 timers in order to have one for each of the TV monitors in all the schools.

c) Vending machine controls

Mr. Masciana noted that David A. Kalafa, Policy Development Coordinator with the Office of Policy and Management Energy Policy Unit has approved the proposed Vending Miser product, which is assembled in the United States although the parts are not American. He noted that there are 16 vending machines in the school that the Vending Misers will be purchased for, using the allocated Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant funds.

d) CHS auditorium lighting – design review; LED / CFL trial

Mr. Masciana stated that there was a meeting last week with 5 maintenance staff and lighting representatives for the LED and Compact Florescent Lights regarding upgrading options for the auditorium lighting at Cheshire High School. There is currently 1 LED and 1 Compact Florescent Light in place at the Auditorium. The CFL bulbs are 42 watts and will last 20,000 hours but are not very dim-able. The LED bulbs are 14 watts and will last 50,000 hours and they have an excellent dim-able quality. It was noted that the LED bulbs cost slightly more than the CFL bulbs but do last over twice as long and are significantly less wattage. The existing bulbs in the Auditorium range from 150 – 250 watts and do not last very long. There are 66 fixtures, including emergency lighting, in the Auditorium. The Education Department maintenance staff will be able to do the installation of the new lights. Mr. Masciana noted that they would like to get have some representatives from the theatre groups take a look at the lighting samples for their opinion, too.

e) Street / Parking Lot lighting retrofits – LED / Induction trial

Chairman Ogurick stated that there are 2 LED sample parking lot lights in the Town Hall lot. He stated that he would like to also see a sample of induction lights for the parking lot, too, so a comparison can be done. Chairman Ogurick stated that the sample induction parking lot light could be purchased using the remaining funds from the retrofit project that was done a few years ago.
It was noted that there may be enough funding allocated with the Grant to replace all of the school and town parking lot lights. Chairman Ogurick suggested that rebates for these lights should also be looked into with CL & P.

f) Subsidize 150 Home Energy Solutions audits – Phase 1 results; Phase 2 status

Chairman Ogurick stated that there have been 5 referrals this month from the initial home energy audits done in Cheshire. Those residents that referred someone to the Home Energy Solutions program will be entered into the July drawing for an Energy Star appliance. Additional drawings will be held in August and September. Chairman Ogurick noted that CL & P is working on a press release on the referral drawing and program extension.

g) RFP for town-wide ESPC project – Celtic Energy walk thru of 4 buildings

Mr. Masciana stated that representatives from Celtic Energy were at the 2 schools involved in this project last Wednesday. This was their second visit. The representatives have gathered the most up to date building plans and recent utility bills for the buildings to help in finalizing their RFP for the town-wide ESPC project. Mr. Michaelangelo stated that he thought the RFP would be ready to go out in about 2 weeks. Chairman Ogurick asked to have the Energy Commission review the RFP before it is sent out.

4) WRAP – Status of Cheshire mailing

Chairman Ogurick noted that 37 residents have signed up for the WRAP home energy audit program and have been completed by New England Conservation Services, Inc.

B. Benchmarking

1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager – status of data entry

Mr. Michaelangelo stated that Mr. Noewatne has been working on training some of the Public Works staff to help with the data entry for the Town utilities in the Energy Star Portfolio Manager database.

Web site and log-in info:
http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=evaluate_performance.bus_portfoliomanager; user name: Cheshireps; password: Cheshirect
Chairman Ogurick encouraged Commission members to check out the Energy Star Portfolio Manager web site when they have a moment.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

1) CEC web page (http://www.cheshireenergycommission.org) – updates

Chairman Ogurick commented that he sent Mr. Takizawa some information to add to the Energy Commission web site.

2) News articles and letters to the editor

There were no new articles or letters to the editor discussed tonight.

D. Clean Energy

1) 20% by 2010 Campaign –status

Ms. Wilson stated that Cheshire has approximately a 3.1% penetration for clean energy sign ups in Town.

2) 5 kW solar system at library – performance update

Chairman Ogurick gave an update on the energy generated over the past 19 months as a result of the solar system on the Cheshire Public Library roof.

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Cumulative kWh Generated</th>
<th>Cumulative Value (@$0.18/kWh)</th>
<th>CO₂ (lbs)</th>
<th>NOx (lbs)</th>
<th>SO₂ (lbs)</th>
<th>TV-hours</th>
<th>Computers/ Yr</th>
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3) Cheshire High School – Solar Powered Classroom Project

Vincent Masciana, Director of Management Services for the Education Department talked about a teacher at Cheshire High School who would like to create a solar powered classroom. The teacher has already received a $2,500 grant and has started to purchase some of the supplies for the project. Commissioners commented that it would be interesting to find out how many watts would be needed to power the classroom, with the SMART Board, computer, projector and lights. Mr. Masciana noted that 3 students have already committed to the solar powered classroom project. It was noted that if 100 more clean energy sign ups are generated in Cheshire, a free 2-kilowatt system could be installed.

E. PBC Projects

There were no PBC projects discussed at this meeting.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

1. Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge – overview

Chairman Ogurick reported that the Community Energy Savings Project grant application has been approved for $4.1 million for the 14 town partnership. The purpose of the partnership is to promote clean energy and energy efficiency and will target homeowners. Chairman Ogurick explained that the purpose of the program is to educate and promote community outreach on these topics.

Kerry O’Neil of Earth Markets, a co-principle investor for the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge, and Bob Wall of Connecticut Clean Energy Fund, the lead applicant and co-investor for the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge were present to talk to Commissioners about this program. Also present was Roger Smith, the Campaign Director for Clean Water Action, who will be in charge of community outreach to the 14 towns taking part in the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge.

Ms. O’Neil stated that the grant is from the US Department of Energy. Although the grant application was approved for this program, there still is quite a bit of paperwork to be done before it will be officially awarded. The 14 towns included in this challenge are: Bethany, Cheshire, East Haddam, East Hampton, Glastonbury, Lebanon, Mansfield, Portland, Ridgefield, Weston, Westport, Wethersfield, Wilton and Windham. The team of experts conducting this challenge are: Connecticut Clean Energy Fund, Earth Markets, Clean Water Fund, Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund, Efficiency 2.0, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, SCA, SmartPower and AFC First.
Mr. Wall stated that no towns in New England were supporting clean energy up to a few years ago. Today, 102 towns in Connecticut have joined the 20% by 2010 campaign for clean energy purchasing. The purpose of this challenge is to get more sign ups and more solar technology at residential homes to help our towns earn more incentives.

Since 1990 there has been a 15% increase in residential energy use and a 100% energy cost increase since that time.

The Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge sets goals for each town to reach. The first goal is to have 10% of the households sign up for the challenge; the second goal is to achieve 20% energy savings and to use clean energy. Ms. O’Neil explained that the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge will allow residents to go online to create a personal energy savings plan, create student conservation association corps and will conduct home energy surveys door to door. There will be community incentives / rewards that could range from solar PV systems, sports scholarships, LED lighting upgrades, etc.

Currently, this program is in the pre-award process with the Federal government. While this is going on, local recruitment is starting for the Student Corp as well as identifying key opportunities in the community (key groups or people) to engage and starting a list of potential volunteers for the program. Mr. Smith noted that he will need a key point person to help keep things rolling in each of the towns involved in this program.

Ms. O’Neil stated that they are hopeful everything will be in place for an early Fall kick off of the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge. Mr. Okrent commented that there is a huge Family Day event in Bethany in September and Ms. Wilson stated that the Cheshire Fall Festival will be held on September 11th. Commissioners suggested that if the Campaign is not kicked off by the time these events come around, handouts and “save the date” cards could be given out to start building excitement for the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge. Ms. O’Neil agreed that these suggestions were a good idea and stated that they would be back to meet with the Commission to talk about promoting the Challenge and pre-launch pledge cards, etc.

G. CL & P Energy Reliability Program

1. Lewis Tree Service tree trimming project – status

CL & P tree trimming crews continue to work around Town in an effort to enhance the energy reliability in Cheshire. Mr. Michaelangelo commented that the tree trimming crews have completed about 40% of the project and have recently been working on the south end of Town and will be working their way north.
H. Collaborative Committee – energy and environment

Chairman Ogurick mentioned that the Environment Commission Chairman had contacted him about forming a joint committee of the Energy Commission and Environment Commission to discuss related issues such as renewable technology job growth. Randy Yale, Chairman of the Environment Commission was present at tonight’s meeting to talk to the Energy Commission members.

Mr. Yale explained that his suggestion for a joint committee or study group is so the two groups could work together to better understand the opportunities available to Connecticut and specifically for Cheshire. Such opportunities include bringing environmentally friendly jobs to Cheshire like clean energy sources, wind turbines, etc. He would like this group to think about 5 or 10 or more years out about the potential of bringing long lasting industries to Town. Mr. Yale stated that the Economic Development Commission could also be included as part of this group and suggested a partnership with a local university for this undertaking. Ms. Wilson suggested that it could be a collaborative effort with area towns, too.

Mr. Okrent, Chairman of the Bethany Clean Energy Task Force, suggested considering the production of media as a clean environment type of business, especially with the Quinnipiac University communications program right down the road.

Councilman White suggested that the group could come to the Town Council, once it has some specific ideas to bring forward. Mr. Yale talked about having the Town Council make a general proclamation to welcome clean energy / environment type of businesses to Cheshire.

Chairman Ogurick suggested that an ad-hoc committee could be put together with a couple of people from each of the Commissions that were mentioned. He also suggested that the first meeting be set for September or October.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. CT Energy Conservation Management Board – feedback regarding interactions with Conservation & Load Management program administrators; satisfaction with coordination between Conservation & Load Management programs and the Energy Commission; potential changes to the community outreach portion of the programs

Jamie Howland from the Energy Efficiency Fund Oversight Board was present to speak with the Energy Commission about their dealings with CL & P and the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund. Mr. Howland stated that the Energy Efficiency Fund Oversight Board is made up of board members and consultants, there are no employees.

Chairman Ogurick asked Mr. Michaelangelo how he finds out about rebates that are available from CL & P? Mr. Michaelangelo stated that the CL & P representatives send out information via e-mails and at quarterly information sessions. Chairman Ogurick commented that he doesn’t always feel that Staff is taking advantage of all the available incentives. Councilman White stated that he agreed and asked if the information the Town receives is
too overwhelming? Mr. Michaelangelo explained that for any planned project or replacement, it is much easier to find out what rebates are available. If a piece of equipment needs to be replace on an emergency basis, there is no time for the pre-approvals that are needed for the CL & P rebates / grants.

Commissioners commented that CL & P representatives have been at the last few Fall Festivals and have been extremely supportive of the HES campaign in Cheshire right now, including marketing and town wide mailing efforts. Chairman Ogurick also talked about how much easier it is to have a project that has pre-approved vendor with CL & P.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Ogurick adjourned the Energy Commission meeting at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary