Commissioners Present:
Chairman Rich Ogurick, David Gavin, Walter Gayeski, Paul Michalowski, Peter Takizawa (arrived at 7:27 p.m.) and Carol Wilson

Commissioners Absent:
Joseph Nesdale

Staff Present:
George Noewatne, Operations Manager for the Public Works/Engineering Department; Frank Biancur, District Maintenance Foreman for the Education Department

Others Present:
Joan Szechtman of Cheshire; Steve Bertenshaw, Science Teacher at Cheshire High School (arrived at 7:25 p.m. and departed at 8:20 p.m.)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ogurick called the meeting to order at 7:02 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

MOTION by Paul Michalowski to accept the June 28, 2010 Energy Commission regular meeting minutes as submitted. SECONDED by Carol Wilson.

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

The motion passes 5 – 0.
B. July 26, 2010 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Carol Wilson to accept the July 26, 2010 Energy Commission regular meeting minutes with the corrections noted below. SECONDED by Rich Ogurick.

Corrections to the July 26, 2010 minutes: Page 2, under Communication the correct spelling is Chris Bluhe; Page 2, item 3 A, first sentence should read, “…that the Information Technology Department Staff are working…”; Page 6, item 3, last sentence should read, “…one additional free 2-kilowatt system would be award to Cheshire by the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund.”; Page 9, second sentence should read “If a piece of equipment needs to be replaced on an emergency basis…”

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

The motion passes 5 – 0.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Szechtman came forward to provide the Energy Commission with information from Roger Smith’s Googleboard regarding DPUC Draft Decision – Integrated Resource Plan. Chairman Ogurick suggested that this topic be added as new business to this evening’s agenda as item C.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Management Projects

1) Cheshire Public Library – status of energy upgrades

Mr. Noewatne stated that there has been no change with the status of the energy upgrades at the Cheshire Public Library. The remaining 50% from the suggested list will be replaced when needed, with the suggestions from Ms. Wilson’s energy conservation list.

Chairman Ogurick asked to have this topic removed from future agendas until there is something that needs attention.

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

Chairman Ogurick stated that Councilman White had suggested that the Town Council add 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. He added that he is not sure if it has in fact been added as one of the Town Manager’s goals.
Commissioners talked about the little things that can be done to reduce energy consumption by the Town. It had previously been brought to the Energy Commission’s attention that there are quite a few individual refrigerators, space heaters and coffee makers in the classrooms, which all draw a lot of extra electricity. Commissioners noted that it costs approximately $35 per year for each individual refrigerator in each classroom.

**MOTION** by Carol Wilson that a letter be sent from the Energy Commission to Superintendent Florio and the Board of Education Chairman requesting the removal of all individual refrigerators, heaters, coffee makers, etc. that are currently in the schools to help reduce the energy consumption in the individual classrooms. SECONDED by Walter Gayeski.

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

The motion passes 5 – 0.

3) Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) projects – OPM site visits

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. Biancur stated that there has been no change in the status of the computer time management software program installation.

b) TV monitor controls

Mr. Biancur stated that the TV monitor timers are being evaluated by CL & P to determine if any additional rebates are available for this project. He added that a letter of approval has been received by the Office of Policy and Management Energy Policy Unit for the proposed TV monitor timers.

c) Vending machine controls

Mr. Biancur stated that the vending machine misers are being evaluated by CL & P to determine if any additional rebates are available for this project.
d) CHS auditorium lighting – design review; LED / CFL trial

Mr. Biancur stated that after the lighting evaluations a decision has been made to move forward with the dimmable LED lighting for the High School Auditorium. There are 66 lights now, but 90 LED lights will be needed, which will put the project over its $12,000 budget. CL & P is looking into rebates based on the whole project, including installation costs. They have suggested that there may be an $11,000 rebate available. If this is the case, all of the LED lights could be purchased in addition to shoebox lighting and some 400-watt stage lighting using T-5’s. This lighting upgrade is projected to save 8,810 watts each time the Auditorium lights are turned on. The LED bulbs have an estimated life of 50,000 hours. Mr. Biancur stated that he and Mr. Masciana are working on the rebate funding to maximize this project.

Ms. Wilson commented that it has been a pleasure to work with Mr. Biancur on this project, adding that he should be commended for his work on this project.

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

It was noted that induction lighting for the parking lot lights should have approximately a 68-year life for the bulb. The Town is awaiting rebate information from CL & P for this project.

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

Chairman Ogurick stated that there have been 18 referrals from the initial home energy audits done in Cheshire. Those residents that referred someone to the Home Energy Solutions program have been entered into the August drawing for an Energy Star appliance. At this evening’s meeting, Dennis Deninger of Highview Terrace was selected as the winner of the August drawing for $1,500 of Energy Star appliances. An additional drawing will be held in September. Chairman Ogurick noted that he has not seen a CL & P press release on this next phase of the Home Energy Solution audits.

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

The Town Attorney is reviewing the Celtic Energy performance contract to be used when responded to the RFP for the town-wide ESPC project. All of Celtic Energy’s walk thrus and audits are done. The Energy Commission
would like to see the data collection report and the RFP when it is finalized, but before it is sent out.

4) WRAP – Status of Cheshire mailing

Chairman Ogurick stated that he did not have an update for the WRAP home energy audit program.

B. Benchmarking

1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager – status of data entry

Mr. Noewatne will be training a new employee of the Public Works Department, Don Nulte, 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

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

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

Chairman Ogurick commented that the Energy Commission web site is on Pacific Time. Mr. Takizawa replied that it is a Google bug. Chairman Ogurick suggested removing the “free energy audit” information from the web site and adding information about the Neighbor to Neighbor Challenge, including a pledge card.

2) News articles and letters to the editor

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

3) Fall Festival – theme; plan; coverage

Chairman Ogurick stated that the Fall Festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 11th starting at 10 a.m. and asked for Commissioners to volunteer an hour or two throughout the day to help staff the booth. He also stated that there will be Neighbor to Neighbor pledge cards available but additional information about the program is needed.

Ms. Wilson stated that she is available to help from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. at the Festival. She added that she would bring her solar powered toys.
Commissioners asked Mr. Noewatne to have the pinwheels, compact florescent light bulbs and clean energy sign up sheets available for the Festival.

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, or 328 points, in Town.

2) 5 kW solar system at library – performance update

Chairman Ogurick gave an update on the energy generated over the past 20 months as a result of the solar system on the Cheshire Public Library roof.

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3) Cheshire High School – Solar Powered Classroom Project

Mr. Bertenshaw, a Science Teacher at Cheshire High School, was present to speak to the Commission about his hope to create a solar powered classroom. He explained that he used to live in the Midwest and built a house that was run completely on solar electricity. Approximately 4 or 5 years ago Mr. Bertenshaw received a grant from Toyota Corporation to build a small building on wheels with solar power. He would like to use the equipment for that project to run his classroom at Cheshire High School. He has a 4 panel, 450-watt array with batteries, cables and a frame to mount the panels. Mr. Bertenshaw and Mr. Biancur stated that the School has agreed to provide the labor for the installation of the equipment. It is Mr. Bertenshaw’s hope that with the help of the Science Honor Society, room 83 will be disconnected from the school electrical grid. Chairman Ogurick asked if it is known what the estimated energy consumption
for the room currently is and Mr. Bertenshaw replied he did not know. Mr. Bertenshaw explained that some adjustments to the existing lighting will be needed for the classroom. There is one computer in the classroom and there is no SMART Board or projector; the heat for the classroom is hot water radiator. As a side note, Mr. Bertenshaw suggested that the schools use projectors with LED bulbs for the SMART Boards.

Ms. Wilson stated that she likes the approach of trying to live within the energy created for the classroom. When asked, Mr. Bertenshaw stated that he teaches chemistry and AP chemistry. He would like to see the kids involved in this project do as much as possible with the set up of the room.

Chairman Ogurick mentioned that if the kids could work on getting an additional 72 customers to sign up for clean energy in Cheshire, they could have 2 additional solar panels from the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund. Mr. Bertenshaw commented that he would like to get the original system functioning then the students could possible help work on getting more clean energy sign ups.

Mr. Michalowski asked what the Energy Commission could do to help in this project? Mr. Bertenshaw replied that he has the equipment and the resources are coming together for the installation. He added that he would like to get some more energy efficient lighting for room 83. Chairman Ogurick suggested dimmable LED lights and Mr. Biancur stated he may have some suggestions for the room, too. Chairman Ogurick stated that the Energy Commission may have some funds available from an old lighting upgrade project that may be available to improve the lights in room 83.

The Energy Commission members asked Mr. Bertenshaw to keep them informed on the progress of the project and invited him to bring the students involved in the project to a future Energy Commission meeting.

4) DCS Energy – free solar systems

Chairman Ogurick stated that he had sent an e-mail to Commission members regarding DCS Energy wanting to send out notices to let the community about their willingness to install up to a 9-kilowatt solar power system for free at a non-residential location.

E. PBC Projects

Mr. Gavin stated that the Dodd Middle School cafeteria project is mostly completed. He also reported that the Public Building Commission is staying on top of the bubble replacement at the Community Pool. With regards to the potential turf field project at Cheshire High School, the only energy component would be reduced watering of the field.
Mr. Gavin mentioned the Water Pollution Control Plant upgrade project and asked if the Energy Commission should be reviewing the plans? Mr. Noewatne stated that he would have to check on the status of that project. Chairman Oguirick suggested that a representative from the Energy Commission should be attending the Water Pollution Control Authority meetings, with regards to this upgrade project. He also mentioned “fine bubble diffusion” as something that should be looked into.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

1. Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge – overview; pre-launch meeting on 8/16/10; pledge cards

Chairman Oguirick 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 Oguirick explained that the purpose of the program is to educate and promote community outreach on these topics. A pre-launch meeting was held on August 16th with Ms. Wilson, Roger Smith, Campaign Director for Clean Water Action, Lee Grannis, Coordinator for the Greater New Haven Clean Cities Coalition, Inc. and Mike Okrent, Chairman of the Bethany Clean Energy Task Force. November 1st is the estimated launch date for the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge web site. Pledge cards for the program will be available for the Fall Festival on September 11th.

The group will need to develop ways to adopt energy efficiency and renewable energy. It is hopeful that 10% of Cheshire residents will accept the challenge and then create a 20% energy savings for each of their households.

G. CL & P Energy Reliability Program

1. Lewis Tree Service tree trimming project – status

Mr. Noewatne stated that periodically the CL & P tree trimming crews are working around Town in an effort to enhance the energy reliability in Cheshire. He added that the tree trimming is approximately 100% complete from the original list that was presented to the Town for this project by CL & P.

H. Energy / Environment Collaborative – committee members wanted

Chairman Oguirick 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. Chairman Oguirick asked for volunteers for this combined group and stated that they first meeting will be set for September or October.
VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Shining Solutions, the CFL Fundraising program from TechniArt

Chairman Ogurick talked about a fundraiser that is being offered by Shining Solutions where the Town could receive 50% of the profits from selling Compact Florescent Lights. He asked if the Energy Commission is interested in this program and asked for suggestions on how to share in this benefit. Ms. Wilson suggested that a time could be scheduled at Town Hall and residents could be invited to attend the CFL fundraiser.

B. Connecticut to generate 20 percent of its power from renewable sources by 2020 – after selecting 13 clean power proposals, at this point only one Connecticut Clean Energy Fund project looks likely to be built

Chairman Ogurick stated that of the 13 projects selected from the clean power proposals a couple of years ago, only 1 project is likely to be built. He noted that this has an impact on the 7% State Contribution to the 20% by 2010 Campaign.

C. DPUC Draft Decision – Integrated Resource Plan

Commissioners reviewed Roger Smith’s Googleboard print out that Ms. Szechtman shared with the Energy Commission.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Carol Wilson to adjourn the Energy Commission meeting at 9:25 p.m.; SECONDED by Paul Michalowski.

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

The motion passes 6– 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary