

MINUTES
ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
AUGUST 12, 2013 – 4:30 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 1

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Genevieve Cerf, Syma Ebbin, Bill Jankowski, Len Mediavilla, Michael Murphy, Mark Oefinger, Bob Quevreaux, Bill Robarge, Rita Schmidt, Gary Schneider, Zell Steever

Excused: Luke Singh, John Sutherland

Staff: Norris, Jessie Stratton, Elissa Wright

Schmidt called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of meeting of June 10, 2013

MOTION: To approve the minutes of June 10, 2013 as amended.

Motion made by _____, seconded by Steever. Motion passed with 1 abstention (Cerf).

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS - None

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Deferred to September meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. State Energy Programs – Jessie Stratton, Director of Policy, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and Representative Elissa Wright, 41st District

Representative Wright stated that she is proud of Groton's progress in the energy area. She introduced Jessie Stratton from CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

Director Stratton informed the committee of the various energy programs going on at the State level. She said that the State has developed a specific energy plan which plotted specific actions that the State should pursue. The following information was provided and discussed.

- 1) The former Clean Energy Fund is now Central Energy Financial Investment Authority (CEFIA). They are looking at ways to leverage private financing to complete energy conservation projects.
 - a) CEFIA administers the C-PACE (Commercial and Industrial Property Assessed Clean Energy) Program. She stated that 50 Connecticut municipalities have opted into the program.
 - b) They also have the ZREX and Solarize which are both solar energy programs.
- 2) The State has recognized that they should pursue microgrid projects. There is approximately \$30M in the State budget for these types of projects next year.
- 3) Energy Performance Contracting – The State has a standardized contract and will work with the Town.

- 4) Utility energy efficiency programs – The Governor has made a major commitment to expand natural gas use. She spoke of an expansion plan by Yankee Gas and that the use of natural gas is not necessarily a long-term fix for GHG emissions. The State is investigating further use of geothermal and heat pumps is being investigated.
- 5) A new Fraunhofer Institute for Energy Innovation was opened at UCONN-Storrs.
- 6) A Climate Resiliency Center is being developed at UCONN-Avery Point.
- 7) The State has been trying to pass benchmarking legislation two years in a row but has failed. They are now looking at a voluntary program.
- 8) Water conservation was discussed in that 14% of energy is used to process drinking water.

A question was asked by a Committee member about State goals for energy reductions. The Director responded that the State wants to lead by example. Based on a 2010 baseline the goal to reduce energy use 10% by 2013 was not met. The next goal is to reduce another 10% by 2020. The State is developing an RFP for virtual energy audits.

Global warming solution – reduce GHG 20% by 2020 and 80% by 2050.

Public hearing for next auction will be August 14th in New Britain.

REGI-Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

The State adopted California regulations for vehicle emissions.

The committee asked about work on Building Code. Ms. Stratton said that amendments are being made to the 2009 Code but it will not be revisited until 2015.

Electric vehicle charging station grants were discussed. A grant in the amount of \$4,000 may become available.

Storm lessons learned were discussed, in particular, beach nourishment and an idea of moving up and back from the shoreline. FEMA currently has a buyout program.

2. Projects Savings from Building Retrofits – CL&P Area – Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works

Schneider discussed CL&P buildings, occupancy sensors, set point

Wastewater Treatment plant – they are looking at VFD, which is a capital investment.

Clean Water Act

3. Groton Town Hall Annex Retrocommissioning-Interim Final Report – Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works

Schneider discussed the process and the report. Three schools, the Senior Center and the Animal Shelter are new.

A committee member asked if we have an energy use statement. Schneider said we have one going back for about three years.

Town buildings should all be put on a DDC system. This program however needs investment. The Town will continue to work as funds allow. Police Department is next and will be done if the bond passes.

4. Groton Town Hall Annex Complex Fuel Selection Analysis for Heating System Replacements-Final Report – Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works

Schneider explained that the existing systems are coming to the end of their life. Discussion ensued on bringing natural gas to the Wastewater Treatment Facility, high school and the Town Hall Annex/Public Works buildings. It was mentioned that gas is available at Depot Road and the Senior Center complex and could be brought to the library.

Schneider discussed the benefits and requirements.

VI. REPORT OF STAFF - None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Prepared by Rick Norris, Program/Project Manager