



TOWN OF HAMDEN

Energy Use and Climate Change Commission

Hamden Government Center
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MEETING MINUTES

The Energy Use and Climate Change Commission held a regular meeting on Monday, October 19, 2009 in the 2nd floor Conference Room, Hamden Government Center, at 7:00 p.m. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Azalea Mitch, Giovanni Zinn, Frank Gasparro

Others in Attendance: Chris Marchand, Frederick Schramm, Michelle Helou, Matt Corcoran, Rose Lion

CALL TO ORDER

There was no quorum and the following informal discussion ensued:

Citizen Michelle Helou presented her concerns regarding the construction of the new Police and Fire Station Building at Memorial Town Hall and also discussed LEAD building certification vs. EPA Energy Star certification standards. Highlights of Ms. Helou's concerns about the building are as follows:

1. **Windows:** for purposes of Historic preservation, the original windows will be kept and will be "nailed shut". She feels the windows should be replaced with storms and be openable/operable.
2. **Cost:** Ms. Helou feels the building construction costs were "grossly underestimated and that it will cost at least 50 million dollars.
3. **Concrete:** Ms. Helou feels there will be a "huge storm water issue" due to the use of a large impervious concrete two story parking structure.

Ms. Helou expressed her belief that EPA Energy Star certification is superior to LEAD certification and listed the following reasons: LEAD is "distracting" because it focuses on easy and meaningless aspects with "averages" which aren't necessarily "good", but just average. She describes LEAD as a "One size fits all". She believes LEAD allows buildings to be certified for "political" rather than true "green" reasons. She feels Hamden needs EPA Energy Star green building certification.

A discussion followed exploring ways to improve the building green certification process. It is suggested that EPA Energy Star be adopted and that green expert consultants be hired to inform/educate/advise government officials during the decision making process. It is stated that the "town should make these decisions, not the engineer or the contractor".

There was a lengthy discussion regarding building project analysis and planning and how to project costs over periods of time. The EUCC Commission would like ensure that its recommendations are heard and considered in future projects and ideas were explored on how to proceed. Mr. Gasparro suggests that the new Mayor be invited to EUCCC meetings. It is suggested that EUCCC work in conjunction with other commissions. Ms. Mitch suggests that we follow up on a letter which the commission sent to the Legislative Council with containing recommendations for the new Police/Fire Station Building.

There was a brief discussion of EECBG money and how it may be spent.

The ECO Hatchery handout was distributed for review for next month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38.

Submitted by,

Rose L. Lion
Commission Clerk