

TOWN OF HAMDEN
ENERGY USE AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION
MEETING

November 16, 2009
7:00 PM
HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER
2750 DIXWELL AVENUE
HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT 06518

Commissioners In Attendance: Frank Gasparro, Chairman
Bernard Brennan
Stephanie Siclari
Giovanni Zinn
Martin Mador

Others in Attendance: Mayor-Elect Scott Jackson
Chris Marchand
Matt Corcoran
Peggy Craft, Acting Clerk of the Commission
Frederick Schramm

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gasparro called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance was taken as noted above.

Chairman Gasparro welcomed Mayor-Elect Jackson to the meeting, and explained the goals of this Commission. Mr. Gasparro said that the Town should be aware of energy saving possibilities. He added that this Commission would like to be involved in this.

Mr. Jackson discussed energy savings at the Middle School, and what can be done at the new Town Hall. He added that we need to accept paying a little more now to be able to save more in the future. He also discussed LED lighting.

Commission Mador would like to have the Mayor-Elect discuss what this Commission can do to be more effective.

Mr. Jackson explained that this Commission was not given any statutory authority. He would like to give this commission funds to use as seed money for projects or energy use initiatives, and discussed how this could be done. He said that members of this Commission must commit to working together through e-mails, conference calls, etc. since some work cannot wait for a monthly meeting. Commissioner Mador discussed the legality of electronic votes. He said it would be necessary to check the Commission bylaws to see if this is possible.

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Next there was a discussion regarding the Hamden High School retro-fits, and what the Commission would have wanted to see on that project. Mr. Mador stated that when you undertake a project you have to consider not only the up front costs but the long term operating costs.

Mr. Jackson stated the he does not mind paying a premium to reduce the carbon footprint, since reducing the carbon footprint will produce long term benefits.

Commissioner Zinn said that energy efficiency and going green does not need to cost more. Mr. Jackson said that the Town has a good relationship with UI.

Commissioner Brennan explained the benefits of Power Purchase Agreements.

There was continued discussion regarding this Commission's role in the future under the new administration and Mayor-Elect Jackson's ideas and thoughts for the future.

Next, there was a discussion regarding a fuel cell at the High School.

Commissioner Zinn asked if it would be beneficial to give progress reports to the Legislative. Mr. Jackson said the only Commission to regularly come before the Legislative Council is the Community Development Advisory Commission for CDBG Public Service Agency grants.

Mr. Jackson also said that there is presently no Town staff member on this Commission, and added that we need to look at this down the line and decide who energy use and climate change should be assigned to.

Next, Mr. Mador discussed the possibility of getting several towns together to hire an Energy Manager. There was a discussion regarding what this person would do.

Zinn discussed New Haven's energy management program, and added that it is very successful.

Mr. Jackson was asked if he would keep the Grants Administer on staff. He said he would.

Next, there was a discussion regarding power point funding and how long the contract will run.

OLD BUSINESS

Item of Old Business will be discussed at the next meeting.

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NEW BUSINESS

There was discussion regarding the stimulus money and when it will be coming in.

Commissioner Zinn said there will be a Human Rights Day 2009 Celebration on December 10th at 7:00 PM at Thornton Wilder Auditorium. This event is sponsored by the Hamden Human Rights & Relations Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Commission and Chairman Gasparro adjourned the meeting at 8:08 PM.

Submitted by: _____
Peggy Craft, Acting Clerk of the Commission