



TOWN OF HAMDEN

ENERGY USE & CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION MEETING

JANUARY 24, 2011

7:00 PM

HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER
2750 DIXWELL AVENUE
HAMDEN

Commissioner in Attendance: Frank Gasparro, Chairman
Matt Corcoran
Martin Mador
Dave Bruhn
Frederick Stramm
Giovanni Zinn

Others in Attendance: Chris Marchand
Peggy Craft

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gasparro called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Bruhn motioned to approve the Minutes of the November, 2010 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Corcoran. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Marchand distributed copies of the EECBG Activity Worksheet for Hamden's Energy Efficiency & Conservation Strategy Grant, that Grant Administrator Florence Vollono has submitted to the Government for \$531,500. This is an entitlement grant. Mr. Marchand added that Mayor Jackson has indicated that he would like to get more involved with this.

Mr. Marchand explained that \$60,000 will be used for an Attic Installation Program and described this program. He added that 12 applicants have been approved. The cost is about \$1,000 per household.

Mr. Marchand said there is \$15,000 in seed money for this Commission. The Commission now needs to come up with a plan on how to use this money. Mr. Marchand will then give this

**ENERGY USE & CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION
MEETING - JANUARY 24, 2011
PAGE 2**

information to Ms. Vollono. Mr. Marchand explained the HUD target area, but added that these funds will be used town wide, as long as the applicant is income/asset qualified.

This grant will also contain funds for the spur trail at Town Center Park. The spur trail addresses energy efficiency and speaks to getting cars off the road. Completing the spur trail has been approved. It is believed that this will reduce car emissions and encourage walking, bike riding, etc.

Next, solar powered compactors were discussed. Mr. Marchand said these are very expensive but are very efficient. They would be placed at key spots around Town, and would reduce the amount of trips that Public Works would have to make to these locations.

There is a possibility that there will be a relocation of \$16,500 of this grant money. It was originally thought that this money would be used to cover the \$75.00 fee for home energy audits. This has not been done yet, but Mr. Zinn said it seems to be restarting. Mr. Marchand said these funds could be reallocated.

Regarding funds for public education, Mr. Marchand said this has not had any direction so far.

Next, Mr. Marchand discussed the recovery units at the new Police facility. The cost of the recovery units are \$275,000 each.

Part of the Grant Administrators salary will also be paid with this grant.

Mr. Marchand met with Rick Ross at the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund along with Rich Shaw and Mark Albanese. Connecticut Innovation has recovery money from the Federal Government that they would like to use for a fuel cell. This fuel cell would be used at the High School to heat the pool, showers, etc. This would be a power purchase agreement. This must be up and running by March 31, 2012. UTC will be submitting this application. They are negotiating with Connecticut Innovation. Mr. Mador said that perhaps the Town needs to hire someone to negotiate with Connecticut Innovation for the Town regarding this. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this topic. Mr. Marchand will have the results of this meeting in about a week. Mr. Mador asked if the Legislative Council would have any problems with this. Mr. Marchand said he doesn't think so. UTC will present this program to the Council and the Board of Education if necessary.

Mr. Gasparro proposed to use some of the grant money we have available to buy compact fluorescent lights to encourage sign ups.

Mr. Gasparro also wants to establish a green zone in Hamden. He suggested that we get a deal to show up once a month at a Hamden location (he suggested Bragger's Bagels) to sign up people. He said that perhaps the people attending could get a free coffee. In exchange we will put outdoor LED lights on this building. Mr. Mador said that the first thing to be done should be to speak with the Town Attorney. Mr. Zinn said that he also feels that the Commission should speak with DOE.

ENERGY USE & CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION

MEETING - JANUARY 24, 2011

PAGE 3

Mr. Mador suggested that he and Mr. Marchand speak with Roger Smith regarding how to spend the grant money. It was decided that Mr. Mador and Mr. Marchand would be the sub-committee to accomplish this.

Mr. Marchand said that the Commissioners could go on line at EDCBG for information and guidelines regarding this grant.

There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Hamden Middle School for the dedication of the Connecticut Clean Energy Communities Program Solar PV Installation. This will be held on Tuesday, February 1, 2011 at 2:00 PM.

Mr. Zinn suggested that the grant money be used for Renewable Energy Installations around Town. He added that this would be a good use of this money. This would have to be done at a Town owned property. The Ranger's house at Brooksvale Park and Spring Glen School were suggested and discussed as possible sites.

Mr. Marchand will speak with Ms. Vollono to get further information regarding this grant.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Mador discussed what is going on in the State Legislature. He said it is necessary to have a voice for energy at the State level. He added that this demands a cabinet level position. He discussed the cost of this – but stressed that it is absolutely necessary that this position be created.

Mr. Mador explained what is presently being done regarding the energy policy in the State, and explained the workings of the DUPC.

Mr. Mador said there are two energy funds, the Energy Efficiency Fund and the Clean Energy Fund. He further discussed the funding and where funds are allocated.

Next, he discussed PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy), and explained how the program works. He also discussed the Omnibus Energy Bill.

Commissioner Schramm said on a Saturday night in December he observed all the lights on at the Hamden High School field. The field was empty at the time. Mr. Schramm asked if the Town tracks this type of lighting. Mr. Marchand will look into this.

Next, Mr. Schramm discussed the problems with the Columbus Day Parade. He said he spoke with Legislative Councilperson Kathleen Schomaker, who advised him to speak with Arts Commission Director Mimsie Coleman. Mr. Schramm informed Ms. Coleman of everything that went wrong regarding the Parade. Ms. Coleman asked how they could make it up to the Commission. Mr. Schramm asked what the Commission would like.

Chairman Gasparro said the Commissioners can think about this.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Commission and Chairman Gasparro called for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Bruhn motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Zinn and passed unanimously. Chairman Gasparro adjourned the meeting at 9:02 PM.**

Submitted by:

Peggy Craft, Clerk of the Commission