

TOWN OF HAMDEN
ENERGY USE AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION
December 19, 2011
7:00 PM
MAIN FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER
2750 DIXWELL AVENUE
HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT

Commissioners in Attendance: Frank Gasparro
Dave Bruhn
Matt Corcoran
Martin Mador
Frederick Schramm
Amy Sowitcky

Others in Attendance: Peggy Craft, Commissioner Clerk
Chris Marchand

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gasparro called the meeting to order at 7:23 PM.

MINUTES

Mr. Mador pointed out the following:

“lead school” should have been LEED school

Kenny Foscue was incorrectly spelled Foster.

Ms. Sowitcky’s said her name was misspelled.

A web page was also suggested (along with an e-mail address).

Commissioner Mador motioned to approve the Minutes of the November meeting as amended. Commissioner Schramm seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

REGULAR MEETING

There was a discussion regarding energy use in the public schools. Mr. Marchand provided information he received from Board of Education Member Adam Sendroff explaining the energy saving activities that have taken place at the schools, and the amount of energy saved.

Mr. Marchand said BOE Superintendent of School Fran Rabinowitz has sent a letter to all the schools regarding energy use and savings. A liaison has been appointed at each school.

The fuel cell has been installed at the High School. By the end of this calendar year a witness test will be done to insure that the cell is doing all that it is suppose to do. Mr. Marchand will inform the Commissioners when this will take place. There was a discussion regarding the plan

of use for the fuel cell. Mr. Marchand said it will be run “24-7”. There was a discussion regarding whether the High School can now be used as an emergency shelter.

There was a discussion regarding obtaining an e-mail address for the Commission. Mr. Marchand said he has spoken with the Town IT person, and explained that e-mail addresses are only given to Town employees. A Town web page was also discussed. Mr. Marchand will look into this again.

SIGN AT BASSETT PARK

There was a discussion regarding the wording for the sign regarding the panel at Bassett Field. Ms. Sowitcky supplied Mr. Marchand with the following:

The Town of Hamden’s EU&CCC has procured this solar panel to provide photovoltaic generated power from the sun.

ENERGY USE FORUM

Ms. Sowitcky distributed a “Hamden EU&CCC Energy Forum” punch list.

Contacting possible speakers was discussed. Mr. Bruhn said he would contact Jeff Fox. There was a short discussion regarding Mr. Fox’ stand on global warming.

Mr. Gasparro suggested having a short video or two shown at the event. Mr. Schramm agreed with this idea. Mr. Gasparro will look into this.

There was a discussion regarding the schedule of the meeting. Ms. Sowitcky suggested that there be an hour of speakers, and then a break for refreshments or visiting vendor tables. Mr. Mador disagreed. Mr. Gasparro said he agreed with Ms. Sowitcky. A lengthy discussion followed.

Having a raffle was discussed. Ms. Sowitcky is handling this. It was felt that having a raffle at the end of the forum would encourage people to stay until the end.

Next there was a discussion regarding having vendor tables. Mr. Mador voiced doubts about this. He said the bulk of the forum is speakers.

Ms. Sowitcky will set up a g-mail account for the forum. Mr. Gasparro will include this in an article in the Post Chronicle. This will be for suggested topics and questions to be included in the forum.

There was a discussion regarding the wording for a press release. Mr. Gasparro will prepare this, and Mr. Marchand will have this released in January.

Mr. Mador said this should be marketed through the Town Civic Associations. There was a discussion regarding how to contact them. Mr. Marchand will get the addresses of the associations for the Commission. It was suggested that each association be asked to send two

e- mails to their members; the first informing them that there will be a forum, and a second reminding them of the date.

Next, it was suggested that a flyer be distributed through the schools to be sent home with each child. A timetable for this flyer was discussed. The text for the flyer will be sent to Mr. Marchand by April 5th, to be distributed by April 12th.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Commissioner Corcoran nominated Frederick Schramm to serve as Vice Chair. Commissioner Bruhn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Mador motioned that the Town provide the Commission with design specifications for energy performance of Town Hall and Police Headquarters Building. Commissioner Schramm seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

There was a discussion regarding vacancies on the Commission.

Mr. Mador discussed having Power Point attend a meeting. He pointed out that they have not attended a meeting in some time. Mr. Marchand will contact them.

Next, Mr. Mador discussed the fact that the Legislative Council liaison to this Commission has also not been at a meeting for quite a while. Mr. Corcoran said that Berita Rowe-Lewis is now the liaison. She will be invited to attend a meeting. Mr. Marchand will attend to this.

Mr. Mador also suggested that the Mayor be invited to attend a meeting. Mr. Gasparro will invite the Mayor.

Mr. Bruhn discussed turning off streetlights in Town. Mr. Marchand discussed this. He said that UI downgraded the lighting recently. Doing any further downgrading would involve the Town, and the Police and Fire Departments agreeing to this based on safety. A discussion followed.

Mr. Mador suggested that the UI Town Account Representative be invited to a meeting.

Mr. Schramm said he would like to know if there is new technology regarding street lighting. He asked if it is possible to turn some lights down at 2:00 AM, lower the wattage during a full moon, control lighting during a police chase, etc. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this subject.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to be discussed, and Chairman Gasparro called for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Corcoran motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Bruhn seconded the motion that passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at PM.**

Submitted by:

Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk