

TOWN OF HAMDEN

ENERGY USE & CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION MEETING

JUNE 18, 2012

7:00 PM

MAIN FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER

2750 DIXWELL AVENUE

HAMDEN

Commissioners in attendance: Frederick Schramm, Vice Chair
David Cooper
Martin Mador
Amy Sowitsky

Others in attendance: Chris Marchand
Peggy Craft

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Schramm called the meeting to order at 7:16 PM.

MINUTES

Commissioner Mador motioned to approve the Minutes of the May 21, 2012 meeting as presented. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Sowitsky asked if there was any interest in the home owners forum at Earth Day. Mr. Mador said there were a number of people who stated their interests on the questionnaire. These questionnaires have been turned over to Mr. Gasparro. Mr. Marchand said there was not a very good response to the clean energy audit or the information available regarding energy saving programs.

Ms. Sowitsky asked if there is anything that we should do different next year at the Earth Day event. Mr. Cooper said there are many things that have come out of the Legislature that could be presented at the next Earth Day. There was a discussion regarding the CPACE program which applies to commercial properties.

Mr. Marchand said he has prepared the papers to apply to be part of the SolarizeCT pilot program. There will be four municipalities chosen. Mr. Marchand explained the program, and said that everything has been sent to the Mayor for his signature. The application must be filed by the end of June. Mr. Marchand and Mr. Mador further explained the program, and the guidelines that would have to be followed if Hamden is accepted into the program.

Mr. Cooper noted that he has read that Germany provides 50% of its power through solar energy.

Mr. Marchand discussed the ZREC Program and the guidelines for this program. There was a discussion regarding this subject.

Mr. Marchand discussed the street lighting in Town, and said the only municipalities that UI has sold the street lighting to are New Haven and Bridgeport. He added that UI has no plans to turn over the lighting to any other municipalities. Mr. Mador asked if this is something that should be presented to the Legislature in the next session as a bill. All present felt that this would be a good idea.

There was further discussion regarding the SolarizeCT program. Mr. Marchand and Mr. Mador explained the financial aspect of the program. They pointed out that there is no cost to the Town, and there are no minimum sign-up numbers. It was pointed out that if Hamden is chosen as one of the four municipalities to participate in this program, it will be this Commission's responsibility to act as ambassadors for this program. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this topic. Mr. Marchand will forward the information he has regarding this program to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Schramm made a motion that the Commission supports the application for the SolarizeCT Pilot Program. Commissioner Sowitsky seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Next, there was a discussion led by Mr. Schramm regarding the UI poles in town. He asked if we could rent space on the poles to place solar collectors. There was a discussion regarding this subject that included the billing methods of UI. It was also noted that UI has recently updated the street lighting with new cobra heads. There as further discussion.

Mr. Schramm asked Mr. Marchand how New Haven and Bridgeport managed to receive ownership of the lighting system. Mr. Marchand said he has been trying to find out about this.

Mr. Mador discussed the Google Group, and asked Mr. Schramm if he was a part of it, noting that this is a good place to present these energy questions. He will send Mr. Schramm an e-mail to add him to the group.

There was a discussion regarding Mayor Jackson being present at the July meeting and what questions should be presented to him.

There was a discussion regarding asking the Mayor to request the Legislative Council to create an ordinance stating that any purchases or project effecting energy use must be presented to this Commission for review before going forward.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Commission, and Vice Chairman Schramm called for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Sowitsky motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Mador seconded the motion that passed unanimously.** Vice Chairman Schramm adjourned the meeting at 8:48 PM.

Submitted by: _____
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk