

# TOWN OF HAMDEN

## ENERGY USE & CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION MEETING FEBRUARY 25, 2013 7:00 PM

### MAIN FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER HAMDEN

**Commissioners in attendance:** Frank Gasparro, Chairman  
Frederick Schramm, Vice Chairman  
Dave Bruhn  
David Cooper  
Matt Corcoran  
Martin Mador

**Others in attendance:** Chris Marchand  
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk  
Paul Weaver, New England Conservation Services  
Doug Cobb, New England Conservation Services

#### CALL TO ORDER

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

#### ATTENDANCE

Attendance was taken as noted above.

Chairman Gasparro invited the representatives from New England Conservation Services to address the Commission.

Mr. Weaver of NECS explained the work his company does in the field of energy conservation and the savings their program can provide. He discussed the home audits that the program provides at a cost of \$75.00 each. Mr. Weaver said the energy savings average \$200 per household. He also distributed a flier describing their work. After his presentation there was a question and answer session. Mr. Weaver answered questions regarding oil heating, and available funding for income eligible residents. He said that his company makes a donation of \$25.00 per participant to a clean energy fund. He added that the Commission could recommend where the donation would be made.

There was a discussion regarding how to increase participation in this type of program.

Mr. Marchand asked what the next step would be to institute this program. Mr. Weaver said Sherry Borrelli of UI would be contacted, and then a plan based on a program that was done in Madison would be drawn up. The Commission would also let NECS know what program they would want the donations to go to. Mr. Weaver said the sooner the program begins the better, since the weather is still cold. He said the program could be extended into the fall.

There was a discussion regarding how this program would work for large apartment buildings such as those located on Mix Avenue.

There was further discussion regarding this program, including where the most energy is lost in a home. Mr. Weaver said the biggest loss of heat is through the roof. There was also a discussion regarding replacing CFLs with LEDs. Mr. Weaver said they could handle this through their program.

Mr. Weaver said he would speak with Ms. Borelli regarding assisting the Commission in drafting a letter to becoming involved in the program.

Mr. Weaver thanked the Commissioners for their attention.

Chairman Gasparro thanked Mr. Weaver and Mr. Cobb for their presentation.

Mr. Weaver will be in contact with Mr. Marchand regarding the program.

### **APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 2012 MINUTES**

**Commissioner Schramm motioned to approve the Minutes of the December 2012 meeting as presented. Commissioner Corcoran seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

### **MICROGRID UPDATE**

Mr. Schramm said there were two applications submitted.

Mr. Mador said that the Commission would know the State's decision by Wednesday (February 27<sup>th</sup>).

Mr. Mador also said that the Governor would like to double the funding for Microgrids, but he is not sure when this will occur.

Mr. Schramm discussed the Microgrid proposed for the Ice Rink.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Marchand discussed a proposed large solar installation on the Public Works building and the Middle School. There was a discussion regarding this project. Mr. Marchand said it would be accomplished through CCM and Z Rec as the solar provider. This proposal will go before the Legislative Council and the Board of Education within the next month. Mr. Bruhn asked if the saving would be worth the cost. Mr. Marchand said it definitely would. There was a discussion regarding the amount of savings. Mr. Mador asked who would own the equipment. Mr. Marchand said the provider, who would also be responsible for the maintenance of the equipment.

Mr. Marchand explained the criteria for a building to be eligible for this equipment. There was a discussion regarding this subject, and other buildings that have these sorts of installations.

Mr. Bruhn asked what the Commission could do to support this proposal. Mr. Marchand suggested that the Commissioners attend the Board of Education Operations Committee Meeting on March 4th at the Central Office, 60 Putnam Avenue or the Legislative Council Committee Meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup>. CCM and Z Rec will be making presentations at these meetings. Mr. Marchand will e-mail the details of these meetings to the Commissioners.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Cooper discussed liquid batteries. Mr. Schramm said this is a “Wind Program”. Mr. Cooper said that this would be great for the Microgrid. Mr. Schramm agreed. Mr. Schramm explained how this would work.

Mr. Gasparro briefly discussed Earth Day on April 20<sup>th</sup>. He said the Commission could plan their involvement at this event at the March meeting. There was a discussion regarding whether the donations from NECS could be used for the Earth Day audits that would be given to residents for signing up for clean energy. There was a short discussion regarding last year's display. Mr. Mador asked if there should be a car at Earth Day this year. There was a discussion regarding this question.

Mr. Schramm discussed the Hamden Government Center Building. Mr. Schramm said that originally this building was purchased in a foreclosure, and was proposed to be only temporary housing for Town offices. He said there are 13 electric meter and 10 gas meters that we pay for each month. He said this needs to be fixed. He said it is not a large savings but is a waste. He also said this building was built for multiple tenants not one tenant. There was a discussion regarding this subject.

Mr. Mador said this is not an issue for this Commission. It is an issue for the Town. He added that it does not involve energy savings it involves saving money.

Mr. Schramm said there needs to be an operating entity for the Microgrids that would be provided by outside funding. He said he has spoken with a friend of his who is a lawyer regarding this.

Mr. Mador pointed out that the Commission has no authority to approve this.

Mr. Schramm has an appointment with Economic Development Director Dale Kroop regarding setting up a private corporation along the lines of the Hamden Economic Development Corporation. Mr. Schramm discussed what this corporation would do. There was further discussion regarding this subject.

Mr. Marchand said the CPACE Meeting has been rescheduled to March 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Marchand will e-mail the details to the Commissioners.

Mr. Schramm asked when the Commission will endorse the Municipal Energy Corporation. Mr. Mador said he feels that more information is necessary to do this. Mr. Schramm will send information regarding this for discussion through e-mails and at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Commission and Chairman Gasparro called for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Cooper motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Bruhn seconded the motion that passed unanimously.** Chairman Gasparro adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk

