

TOWN OF HAMDEN

ENERGY USE & CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION MEETING

APRIL 15, 2013

7:00 PM

MAIN FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER HAMDEN

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

Others in attendance: Chris Marchand
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 2013

Commissioner Corcoran motioned to accept the Minutes as presented. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

EARTH DAY

Mr. Gasparro said he would not be in the state on Earth Day. He asked for volunteers. Mr. Cooper, Mr. Corcoran, Mr. Bruhn, Ms. Sowitcky, Mr. Schramm, Mr. Mador and Mr. Marchand will attend this event.

Mr. Cooper would like to do a workshop regarding accessing information concerning energy use, etc.

Mr. Gasparro discussed clean energy sign-ups at this event. He distributed copies of the clean energy sign-up sheets for the Commissioners information.

Mr. Schramm said he will be unable to do the physical set up at Earth Day, and asked for help.

Mr. Gasparro said this Commission is part of the scavenger hunt. He discussed the question that will be asked. He will e-mail the question to the Commissioners.

Mr. Bruhn said a recap of the activities at Earth Day would be to encourage sign-ups for clean energy and home audits. There will also be information regarding the Oil to Gas Program

Mr. Gasparro said Hamden is the fourth most active Town in the State regarding Energy Use. He would like to have a chart showing the Commission's activity at Earth Day.

OLD BUSINESS

Microgrid Program

Sleeping Giant Energy Corporation now legally exists. This is a non-stock corporation. Chairman Gasparro, Vice-Chairman Schramm, and Commissioners Cooper and Corcoran are Officers of the Corporation. Mr. Schramm said this could be a 501C4. There was a discussion regarding the Corporation. Mr. Mador explained the two types of non-stock corporations in the State.

Mr. Schramm discussed the prospect of creating a formal relationship with the Town and determining what type of relationship it would be. Mr. Schramm explained what the goals of the Corporation will be.

Mr. Mador said he could not endorse this Corporation until he has further information and time to study it. Ms. Sowitcky agreed, and said she would also feel more comfortable with more information. Mr. Schramm asked if the by-laws would suffice. Mr. Mador said he would look at them, but he doesn't feel they would be enough. He asked that the by-laws be sent to the Commissioners. Mr. Mador said he is looking for very specific information that he doesn't believe would be contained in the by-laws. Mr. Mador said there would be a need for a time line if the Commission is to make a recommendation to the Mayor/Legislative Council.

Mr. Mador asked how many towns were approved in the first phase. Mr. Schramm said 27. There will be three to four projects ultimately funded.

Mr. Schramm asked the non-Corporation members if there would be a problem at the next meeting with them giving a favorable recommendation to the Corporation. Mr. Bruhn said he would have no problem doing this. Mr. Mador said he would want to see a specific proposal before he could make an endorsement. Ms. Sowitcky agreed with Mr. Mador, adding that she has no problem with the intention of the Corporation, but would like to see the by-laws and a proposal.

Mr. Mador asked if the Corporation would be doing this on behalf of, or in lieu of the Town. Mr. Marchand pointed out that if the project were awarded to the Town then Blue Sky Power would not be allowed to participate in the RFP. Mr. Mador pointed out that Town Attorney Sue Green's opinion regarding this is going to be extremely important. Mr. Schramm said that is currently in the process.

Mr. Schramm said the State has released the Phase Two RFP and the Commission, and perhaps the Corporation, is moving forward to meet this. The deadline is June 3rd. Mr. Schramm plans to have discussions with DEEP to determine if the Corporation can take over the application. There was a discussion regarding how this would be handled, and who would administer the RFP. Mr. Marchand pointed out that if the Town takes over handling the RFP, Blue Sky Power would be excluded from participating. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this subject. Mr. Mador said his educated guess is that the Town will not go forward with the Corporation handling the microgrid without coming to this Commission for their advice. Mr. Marchand pointed out that the Mayor signed the application for the first round of the microgrid but would have no involvement with the development of the microgrid.

Mr. Mador said if the Town asks for an opinion from this Commission, it could be necessary for the officers of the Sleeping Giant Energy Corporation who are also Commission members to recuse themselves. Mr. Corcoran said he would be uncomfortable with the Corporation members voting on this. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this topic.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Mador discussed a one-time energy auction that would be held by the State, and explained how it would be conducted. He said the chances of this bill passing are about 50%. There was a short discussion regarding this subject.

Mr. Marchand discussed an oil to gas conversion program. He explained this program. He said the State is encouraging changeovers from oil to gas. Hamden has been selected as a pilot program. He and the Mayor have discussed this with UI/Southern Connecticut Gas Company and DEEP. Mr. Marchand is working with Sherrie Borrelli of UI regarding this program. It has not been announced publicly yet, but should be soon. The discussion regarding this subject continued. Mr. Mador said about 30% of the State is currently using gas. The State would like to have that number be 50%. Mr. Mador said it is important to have a public relations program in place to inform households that are currently using oil about this program.

The CPACE Program was briefly discussed.

Virtual Net Metering was discussed. Mr. Mador said he is not sure if this will happen. There was a discussion regarding this subject. Mr. Mador also discussed the Omnibus Bill.

There was a discussion regarding sub-metering.

Next, there was a discussion regarding the proposed gas pipeline from Canada.

There was a discussion regarding clean-energy sign ups. Mr. Schramm asked if the Middle School gets Solar City would they lose the panels. Mr. Marchand said they would not.

It was noted that there are currently 11 solar panels in use by the Town.

The Recycling Coordinator's position was discussed. Mr. Corcoran said that the hours for this position will not be increased. There was discussion regarding the possible creation of another 19-hour position to cover sustainable energy.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Commission and Chairman Gasparro called for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Sowitcky motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion that passed unanimously.** Chairman Gasparro adjourned the meeting at 8:33 PM.

Submitted by: _____
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk