

TOWN OF HAMDEN

ENERGY USE & CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION MEETING
MAY 20, 2013
7:00 PM

MAIN FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER
HAMDEN

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

Others in attendance: Chris Marchand
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk
Sheri L. Borrelli, Senior Business Development Professional United Illuminating
Amy McLean Salls, United Illuminating
Paul Hoar, President Agrifuels
Rich Sulinski, Principal/VP Operations, Agrifuels
Barbara Cooper

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Schramm called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Vice Chairman Schramm invited the representatives from UI to address the Commission.

Ms. Borrelli said a letter will go out to all Hamden residents signed by Mayor Jackson and Chairman Gasparro regarding the Home Energy Solutions Program. Ms. Borrelli discussed the Home Energy Solutions Program and asked the Commission to assist them in encouraging Hamden residents to be involved in this program. Ms. Borrelli is working on a schedule for the Commission and UI to work together. Ms. McLean Salls asked the Commission to suggest ways they would like to be involved in this program. Ms. Borrelli also described the tactics that would be used to encourage participation in the program.

Ms. Borrelli said she would like to do a display showing how many residents have signed up for this program. She suggested a board with a huge CFL bulb marking the progress of the program. There was a discussion regarding where the best place for this display would be.

There was a lengthy question and answer/discussion period regarding Ms. Borrelli and Ms. McLean Salls presentation.

Ms. Borrelli asked for suggestions regarding organizations in Town that would be interested in working with UI on this program. Mr. Bruhn suggested involving Quinnipiac University in this process. He agreed to look into this.

Ms. Borrelli said this is a pilot program, and with the Commission supporting the program, this is a great opportunity for Hamden residents.

Ms. Borrelli said she and Ms. McLean Salls will be available on an "on-needed basis" to work with the Commission on this program. Ms. McLean Salls said Economic Director Dale Kroop will reach out to civic associations in Town to encourage support and participation in this program.

There was a question regarding fracking from Barbara Cooper. Ms. Borrelli will supply Ms. Cooper with a contact person from the Gas Company to answer this question.

The discussion regarding this program continued.

Next, there was a presentation from Agrifuels by Mr. Sulinski and Mr. Hoar regarding biofuels. Mr. Sulinski and Mr. Hoar answered questions from those present regarding their program.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 2013 MINUTES

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

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Marchand discussed the Clean Energy Sign-ups and the credit the Town has earned from the State. This credit amount is approximately \$22,000. There was a discussion regarding how projects are chosen and how credits are earned. Ms. Sowitcky asked Mr. Marchand to supply information regarding heating and cooling costs at Hamden Government Center, and the costs of lighting at the Town Center Park events. There was a discussion regarding how the credits can be used.

Mr. Gasparro sent an e-mail regarding these credits. CEFIA is the agency providing these funds. Mr. Marchand said they will supply a list of acceptable projects the funds can be used for.

MICROGRID UPDATE

Mr. Schramm said he has spoken with a representative from Blue Sky Energy. Mr. Schramm reported the he was told the applications are so far behind that Blue Sky Energy suggested the Commission not pursue this any further. Mr. Schramm said he wants to salvage the High School Application. He said it is presently only 25% complete. The application is due on June 4th. Mr. Schramm said the State likes this application. He also said he will do his level best to have it submitted. Mr. Cooper said if the application is only 50 to 70% complete, it should still be submitted. All present agreed.

Next, Mr. Schramm asked the Commissioners to suggest locations where they would like to see microgrid installations and geo-exchange systems. There was a discussion regarding this question. Mr. Schramm said anywhere that we don't want microgrids we should encourage geo-exchange systems. Mr. Schramm explained the reasoning regarding this. He said in commercial areas there should be microgrids, and geo-exchange systems in residential areas. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this topic. Ms. Sowitcky asked why we have to delineate this right now since, currently, there is not an RFP. Mr. Schramm said that we will be starting microgrids and geo-exchange systems, so it is necessary to choose locations. He discussed co-generation. Mr. Bruhn agreed with Mr. Schramm's idea regarding co-generation.

Mr. Bruhn suggested the Commission recommend microgrids in commercial areas and geo-exchange systems in residential areas. Ms. Sowitcky questioned the funding sources for the microgrids. Mr. Schramm explained how this would work. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this topic.

Mrs. Cooper discussed an experience she had at a former job where lack of a continuous energy source caused terrible conditions. Mr. Schramm said every public building should have an on-site energy source. The discussion regarding this subject continued. There was also a discussion regarding emergency shelter location in Hamden.

Mr. Schramm said the Commission should commit the Town to spending funds on fuel for on-site co-generation as opposed to having the public facilities served primarily by geo-exchange systems which, in the long run, are less expensive to operate, but do not provide the energy security that microgrids do with their on site co-generation capacity.

Mr. Cooper suggested a field trip to a newly constructed apartment building Meriden.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Commission and Vice Chairman Schramm called for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Cooper motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Bruhn seconded the motion that passed unanimously.** Vice Chairman Schramm adjourned the meeting at 9:20 PM.

Submitted by: _____
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk