

TOWN OF HAMDEN

**ENERGY USE & CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
OCTOBER 8, 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
Martin Mador
Amy Sowitcky

Others in attendance: Chris Marchand
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk
Roger Smith

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gasparro called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

Commissioner Mador introduced Roger Smith who will be the Facilitator for this meeting.

Commission members were asked to introduce themselves and share their background and interests in energy use and climate change.

Each of the Commissioners shared their interests in energy use and what led them to join this Commission.

Mr. Mador informed the Commissioners present of Mr. Smith's background and experience in this field. Mr. Mador distributed copies of the Commission Mission Statement, a CUCC Strategic Planning List and the Ordinance Establishing an Energy Use and Climate Change Commission.

The meeting was turned over to Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith informed the Commissioners of his background and experience.

Mr. Gasparro suggested that the Commission stay focused on the task of this meeting.

Mr. Smith said the reason for this meeting is the "Vision and Mission" of the Commission. He asked what kind of community the Commission want Hamden to become regarding their commitment to the future, and what is meaningful for the Town and this Commission to achieve.

Among the goals listed by the Commissioners were:

Energy Independence

Clean Energy

Taking Full Advantage of Programs

Minimizing Energy Costs and Use for Town Citizens

Energy Informed Town

Electric Transportation

Hamden as a Clean and Green Leader

Economic Development

Education in Schools

Mr. Smith discussed ways to achieve these goals and what types of things that could/should be worked on toward this end.

Mr. Smith pointed out the goals listed in the Strategic Planning List and discussed these goals and various programs and initiatives that are available.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding residential programs, including Clean Energy Sign Ups, Solarize, SMART-E Loans, Cozyhome Loans, Energize Connecticut, etc.

Next, there was a discussion regarding Commercial programs promoting energy efficiency, and ZREC Auctions.

Next, Municipal projects/programs were discussed. Street lighting was discussed. It was noted that UI is adamant regarding not selling the street lighting to the Town. Mr. Mador pointed out how this could be accomplished through the State Legislature. Mr. Schramm also discussed a way this could be done through a Town Referendum.

Mr. Smith distributed blank sheets of paper and asked the Commissioners to write down one idea on a page regarding Residential, Commercial and/or Municipal projects.

Projects suggested were:

MUNICIPAL PROJECTS

Promoting C-PACE

Town Performance Contract

Magnet School Certification Licensing

Use of Money ASAP to Save Energy Easily.

Energy Manager

Town Owned Power Generator

Geoexchange Town & Private

Total LED Lighting For All Town Buildings Inside and Out

Solar for Municipal Buildings

Micro/Minigrids

RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS

Economic Development - Energy Security
Promote Alternative Energy
Advise Business, Government, Residents on Optimal Systems
An Energy Forum for the Public
Reaching Out to Households Regarding Energy Efficiency
Promote State Energy Programs

Next, Mr. Smith asked for the Commissioners to place a star on two of the projects they would most like to see implemented.

Most stars were given to:

Hiring an Energy Manager

An Energy Forum for the Public

Reaching out to low income households regarding energy efficiency

A Grouping of Economic Development, Geexchange, Town Owned Power Generator, Micro/Minigrids, Microgrid and Virtual Net Metering

Mr. Smith asked who would like to work with Mr. Smith to research and make the case that the Town would benefit from hiring an Energy Manager. Mr. Mador would like to be involved in this task. There was a discussion regarding this topic.

Mr. Schramm will work with Mr. Smith regarding Economic Development, Geexchange, Town Owned Power Generator, Micro/Minigrids, and Virtual Net Metering.

Mr. Bruhn will work with Mr. Smith regarding outreach to low income residents.

Mr. Smith said the challenge will be to work toward implementing the vision and mission set forth tonight by working together on the projects/goals put forth at this meeting. Mr. Smith said he would be glad to work with the Commission toward these goals.

Mr. Smith said he has an email list for Town Energy across Connecticut. He invited the Commissioners to add their names to this list.

Mr. Smith provided his e-mail address and telephone number to the Commissioners - rsmith@cleanwater.org
860-232-6232.

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 Mador seconded the motion that passed unanimously.** Chairman Gasparro adjourned the meeting at 8:23 PM.

Submitted by: _____
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk