

TOWN OF HAMDEN
ENERGY USE & CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
OCTOBER 22, 2013
7:00 PM

MAIN FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER
HAMDEN

Commissioners in attendance: Frederick Schramm, Vice Chairman
David Cooper
Martin Mador
Amy Sowitcky

Others in attendance: Chris Marchand
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk
Will Fogel, Community Program Manager, next step living

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Schramm called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance was taken as noted above.

Mr. Schramm invited Will Fogel, Community Program Manager, of next step living to address the Commission. Mr. Fogel discussed the services his company provides. He also explained the Solarize Program to the Commission, and explained how this program would benefit Hamden. He also explained how this program could work along with the Energize program.

Mr. Schramm asked for an explanation regarding the Tier Program. Mr. Fogel explained how this program works.

Mr. Fogel explained that his company was founded in 2008 with the idea that there is a need to reach out to communities. The City of Boston reached out to them and they created a program titled "Renew Boston". They are currently working with Boston on a Solarize Program. They have also been invited to work with New Haven, North Haven and West Haven. They are already working with Glastonbury. They are also working with Yale University with the RISK Foundation.

Mr. Cooper asked how they reach out to and help people. Mr. Fogel said they might hear about them at an event, word of mouth, etc. They would then do a home visit and help the resident scope out what they want to accomplish. He said they take a "whole home approach". He said this is how they can help residents, by walking them through the process. He added that they could put together events, create literature, etc. Mr. Cooper asked if they have to be hired to do this work. Mr. Fogel said they do not. He explained how they accomplish their work. He further explained how their income is earned. He said it is through their contracting.

Next, Mr. Fogel discussed heat pumps. He explained Ductless Mini-Splits, and how they work.

Mr. Cooper discussed solar thermal air-conditioning.

Mr. Mador asked what Mr. Fogel would like this Commission to do for him. Mr. Fogel explained the program that he could put together. Among the things that could be done would be creating Workshops. Mr. Schramm asked for an explanation regarding the types of workshops. Mr. Fogel explained past workshops he has conducted including one in Cheshire.

Mr. Mador said it is his understanding that Mr. Fogel's company would do the public relations regarding their programs, and then they would arrange for the contracting of the work. Mr. Mador explained that this Commission is advisory, and does not have the authority to enter into a contract. He further asked what questions the Town Attorney might have regarding this program. Mr. Fogel said he didn't know, but has not encountered problems of in other cities or towns. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this topic.

Mr. Fogel noted that this is a Home Energy Solutions approved vender. He added that they currently are the 84th fastest growing company in the country.

There was further discussion regarding the program(s) that Mr. Fogel's company could provide.

There was a discussion regarding solar energy. Mr. Fogel said that only one in seven homes would benefit from solar energy installations.

Mr. Marchand said the Solarize Express would run for 10 weeks starting November 18th. Mr. Fogel said that his program could work along with this program.

Mr. Cooper asked if Mr. Fogel works with apartment or condominium complexes. Mr. Fogel said they only work with complexes of four or less units.

Mr. Schramm asked how long this process takes. Mr. Fogel said if a homeowner calls them, they schedule an appointment for a home energy solutions visit, and then call a day or two before they will make there visit. Mr. Fogel further said right now the process takes approximately one week. He added that it could take longer, depending on volume and growth.

Mr. Schamm asked exactly what Mr. Fogel would like the Commission to do. He said they would next step living draft a campaign plan, put together a letter explaining that winter is coming and include tips for saving energy, they would also put together workshops. He would ask the Commission to secure spaces for the workshops, and also sign a letter explaining that next step living personnel will be coming door to door to explain the program. Mr. Cooper asked about the company's certifications. Mr. Fogel said they are Home Energy Solutions certified along with several other certifications.

Ms. Sowitcky said she would be most concerned with the letter that Mr. Fogel would request that the Commission sign. Mr. Fogel will send a copy of the proposed letter.

Mr. Fogel thanked the Commission for allowing him to make his presentation.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding Mr. Fogel's proposal. This will be further discussed at the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2013 MINUTES

Commissioner Sowitcky motioned to approve the Minutes of the September 16, 2013 meeting as presented. Commissioner Mador seconded the motion. Mr. Mador pointed out that Ms. Borrelli's first name is spelled *Sherrie* not *Sherry*. Ms. Sowitcky amended her motion to accept the Minutes as amended. Mr. Mador agreed and the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 22, 2013 MINUTES

Commissioner Sowitcky motioned to accept the Minutes of the October 8, 2013 Special Meeting. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Sowitsky restated her suggestion that the \$15,000 that the Commission received from CEFIA be used for solar lighting at the Town Center Park. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this suggestion. Mr. Gasparro has attempted to reach Bob Wall of CEFIA to discuss this but has been unable to contact him. There will be an Ambassador's meeting on Thursday evening from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM that Mr. Wall will be attending. Mr. Marchand said this could be discussed with him then. Ms. Sowitcky will e-mail Mr. Gasparro to request that he speak to Mr. Wall at this meeting. Mr. Marchand discussed the Ambassador Meeting, and who would be attending.

On Monday, November 18th at 6:30 PM, there will be a public forum to promote the Solarize Program. This meeting will be held in the Miller Memorial Library, Thornton Wilder Auditorium. Mr. Gasparro will act as Master of Ceremonies at this meeting.

Mr. Mador said Mr. Smith has received funding to work with several towns. Mr. Mador will work to insure that Hamden is chosen as one of the Towns. Mr. Mador said he would like to schedule a second session with Mr. Smith, and continue to work with him. All present agreed that the Strategic Planning Meeting was very productive, and felt it would be beneficial to continue working with Mr. Smith. Mr. Mador will discuss this with Mr. Smith. Ms. Sowitcky said it is important that the Commission act on the plans formed at the Strategic Planning sessions.

Mr. Mador said he is extremely committed to hiring an Energy Manager for the Town. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this topic.

There was a short discussion regarding the C-PACE Program.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to come before the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Commission and Vice Chairman Schramm called for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Mador motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion that passed unanimously.** Vice Chairman Schramm adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Submitted by: _____
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk