

TOWN OF HAMDEN

ENERGY USE & CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

DECEMBER 16, 2013

7:00 PM

MAIN FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER HAMDEN

Commissioners in attendance: Frank Gasparro, Chairman
David Bruhn
David Cooper
Martin Mador
Amy Sowitcky

Others in attendance: Chris Marchand
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk

Mr. Gasparro reported that he talked to Bob Wall. He added that Mr. Wall said he would be very interested in the Commission using the funds that were earned for sign ups for an EV Charger Station. Ms. Sowitcky will look into this. There was also a discussion regarding Ms. Sowitcky's previous suggestion to install solar lighting at Town Center Park. Mr. Braun suggested an installation at a school. Mr. Marchand said that there are needs other than solar. He discussed the needs at some of the Fire Stations and the trailer at the Transfer Station.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Gasparro called the meeting to order at 7:26 PM when a quorum was reached.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance was taken as noted above.

Regarding the above discussion, Mr. Gasparro read a memo from Mr. Wall recommending that the Commission hold off on using the earned funds until after the Solarize Hamden Program is completed.

MICROGRIDS

Mr. Gasparro discussed Mr. Schramm's idea of establishing a Microgrid in downtown Spring Glen. There was a discussion regarding this suggestion. Mr. Mador asked why the first application for a Microgrid failed. Mr. Cooper said most of the grants went to universities and colleges.

SOLARIZE HAMDEN

Mr. Marchand said Hamden is now in Tier 3. There will be a follow-up meeting for Solarize Hamden on Tuesday, December 17, 2013 at 6:00 PM in the third floor conference room at Hamden Government Center. There was a short discussion regarding the Solarize Program.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Gasparro received an e-mail from Roger Smith stating that he has funding to work with eight Towns, and he would be willing to work with this Commission to continue the work they began on strategic planning. There was a discussion regarding the benefits of the first strategic planning session. There was a discussion regarding whether these meetings should be held during the regular meeting times, or at a separate session. Mr. Cooper said he didn't feel that enough could be accomplished in a once a month two hour meeting. Mr. Marchand did not agree. Mr. Gasparro suggested that each monthly meeting be separated into a one-hour session devoted to Commission business and a one-hour session devoted to strategic planning. Mr. Gasparro suggested that Mr. Smith be invited to attend the February Commission Meeting. Mr. Mador asked if a conference call would be legal. He was assured by Mr. Marchand that it would. Mr. Gasparro will e-mail Mr. Smith to discuss this.

There was a brief discussion regarding the presentation by Will Fogel of at a previous meeting. Mr. Marchand explained Sherrie Borrelli's suggestion that Hamden follow the example of North Haven and include Mr. Fogel's company among a list of other companies providing similar services.

EARTH DAY

Earth Day will be held on April 12, 2014. Mr. Marchand suggested that the accomplishments of the Commission should be displayed at this year's event. Mr. Cooper suggested presenting workshops at intervals during the day. There was a discussion regarding how this could be accomplished. Ms. Sowitcky suggested discussion points and flyers with information regarding these points.

Mr. Mador suggested Earth Day activities be discussed at the January meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Gasparro discussed the calendar for 2014. It was decided that the March meeting would be held on March 31st. **Mr. Mador motion to accept the 2014 Meeting Schedule with the change of the March Meeting. Mr. Bruhn seconded the motion that passed unanimously**

Mr. Mador discussed tree trimming and the rules that are, approved or will be approved by PURA. He said these rules are very radical, and could result in almost all the trees in New Haven being cut down. Mr. Mador explained these rules. He said there is a group of people in Hamden, The Hamden Alliance for Trees, that are researching this. The New Haven Garden Club is also working on this. Mr. Marchand noted that the Garden Clubs, etc. in the area are very committed to this cause.

Mr. Mador motioned that the Energy Use & Climate Change Commission recommend that in setting the rules, and in the Town's implementation of those rules for cutting down trees, a balance be preserved between taking down the trees that are clearly putting power distribution at risk, and preserving as many trees as possible for the benefits those trees provide. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion.

There was a brief discussion regarding the difference between cutting and trimming. Mr. Marchand explained that many people complain about the appearance of the trimmed trees. Mr. Mador explained that UI would replace the cut down trees. He also discussed UI's program "Right Tree – Right Place". He added, however, that they do not remove the stumps, so there would be nowhere to replant. He also discussed having the people from Hamden Alliance for Trees attend the January meeting to explain/discuss this subject.

Mr. Cooper suggested the use of the wording “Cut Down” instead of trimming in the motion. Mr. Mador accepted this as a friendly amendment. The vote was unanimously in favor of Mr. Mador’s motion.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Commission and Chairman Gasparro called for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Mador motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion that passed unanimously.** Chairman Gasparro adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.

Submitted by: _____
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk