

**ENERGY USE & CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION
MEETING**

**APRIL 21, 2014
7:00 PM**

**MAIN FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER
2750 DIXWELL AVENUE
HAMDEN**

Commissioners in attendance: Frank Gasparro, Chairman
David Bruhn
David Cooper
Brian Lier
Daniel Liston
Amy Sowitcky

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

MINUTES

Chairman Gasparro noted that in the second paragraph of the Minutes, it should state that Commissioner Mador discussed tree trimming, not Commissioner Schramm. Commissioner Bruhn motioned to accept the Minutes of the March 31, 2014 as amended. Commission Lier seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Gasparro thanked all the Commissioners that participated in the Earth Day event.

Ms. Sowitcky suggested that the Commission take part in the contest that is held at Earth Day.

There was a short discussion regarding trees.

Will Fogel of next step living, said their program is going very well. He described a letter that has gone out to residents with oil heating. He also discussed mini-splits. He said there are many people going forward with this. He has spoken with Joe at the Transfer Station, and was told that he would like next step living to have a table there.

Mr. Fogel said they presently have tables at Stop & Shop and Staples. He will contact a representative at ShopRite to discuss having a table there. Mr. Cooper supplied Mr. Fogel with a contact number for ShopRite.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding this topic. Mr. Fogel will send out further information regarding the home energy program.

Mr. Fogel asked the Commissioners if any of them know a prominent person who would agree to have a ductless mini-splits demonstration.

Next, Mr. Fogel discussed CT Solar Challenge. Mr. Marchand, Mr. Fogel, Sherrie Borrelli, and Maggie Trimet regarding this program. Mr. Fogel explained the program and said that the Town has retained Ageis as the vender for this program. Mr. Fogel said next step living will be working with them when they are at the same event. He said when they are at the same event they will not discuss solar, so that the two programs do not get muddled. The Mayor has signed on with CT Solar Challenge.

Mr. Gasparro asked if Mr. Marchand had the final numbers for Solarize Hamden. Mr. Marchand explained that there were 50 to 70 residents that signed up for this program.

Mr. Gasparro next discussed the \$15,000 that is available to the Commission. He said at the last meeting there was a discussion regarding solar lighting for Town Center Park. Mr. Marchand shared information regarding the lighting available. Mr. Marchand said that he received an e-mail from the Police Chief who thinks this is a good idea. Mr. Liston asked where these lights would be placed. Mr. Marchand explained the places in the park where they could be placed.

Mr. Gasparro said another idea was to put money into a school science program.

Mr. Gasparro said he feels this should be decided upon tonight.

Mr. Mador said he feels leaving lights on all night could send a bad message regarding wasteful use of energy.

Ms. Sowitcky motioned to have a vote on using the \$15,000 to purchase solar lights and signs. Mr. Mador seconded the motion. All present agreed to have a vote on this issue. Mr. Liston moved to call the question. Mr. Lier seconded the motion that passed unanimously. The vote to use the \$15,000 to purchase solar lights for Town Center Park passed with seven in favor, zero opposed, and one abstention.

Mr. Mador asked how this project would go forward. Mr. Marchand explained the Town purchasing process.

Mr. Mador discussed a pilot program regarding Community Solar proposed in the State Legislature. Mr. Mador explained this program. He said he is fairly optimistic that something good will come out of this. He said if they can get a decent bill out, the only opposition will be from the utility companies. There was further discussion regarding this topic.

Regarding the point system that awards these funds, Mr. Fogel explained how points are awarded. He also informed the Commission of their current amount of points.

Mr. Gasparro said this Commission should have nine members. There are currently eight members. Mr. Gasparro noted that there was a person at Earth Day who was interested on serving on this Commission. Mr. Marchand noted that Sherrie Borrelli could not be appointed to the Commission since the vacancy must be filled by a non-Democrat.

Mr. Marchand will check with the Mayor's office to determine if the vacancy must be filled with a non-Democrat.

Mr. Mador provided an update on the tree trimming program. His group will be meeting with Representative Sharkey regarding this subject. He further explained what is going on at the State level regarding this program.

NEW BUSINESS

Regarding future funds that may be available, Commissioner Bruhn's daughter is a Biology teacher, and he will discuss with her how funding could benefit school science programs.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding hydro-energy.

Mr. Marchand discussed the megawatt that will be placed at the Transfer Station. This will save the Town approximately \$30,000. There was a discussion regarding this topic.

Mr. Marchand invited the Commissioners to do research regarding the solar lighting for Town Center Park.

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 seconded the motion that passed unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Submitted by: _____
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk