

**TOWN OF HAMDEN
ENERGY USE & CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION
MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2015
7:00 PM
PARKS & RECREATION CONFERENCE ROOM
HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER
2750 DIXWELL AVENUE
HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT**

Commissioner in attendance: Frank Gasparro, Chairman
Frederick Shramm, Vice Chair
David Cooper
Brian Lier
Martin Mador

Others in attendance: Chris Marchand
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk
Brian Sewell, Community Outreach Coordinator, Next Step Living
Erin O'Neill, Sr. Manager, Next Step Living
Joel Rinebold, Director, Energy Initiative, Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc.
David Padilla, Energy Outreach Specialist, Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc.

Mr. Gasparro invited Mr. Sewell and Ms. O'Neill to address the Commission. Mr. Sewell informed the Commissioners that he is replacing Will Fogel who has been promoted to run the New York Next Step Living office. Mr. Sewell distributed a memo discussing the success they have had in Hamden. He and Ms. O'Neill discussed the programs and services offered by their company. Mr. Sewell also explained what their goals would be for Hamden regarding future programs.

Next, Mr. Gasparro invited Mr. Rinebold and Mr. Padilla to address the Commission. Mr. Rinebold and Mr. Padilla distributed an information sheet detailing the services and the workshops they offer. There was a lengthy discussion between the Commissioners and Mr. Rinebold and Mr. Padilla.

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was established when Commissioner Cooper arrived, and the meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM.

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 2014 MINUTES

Mr. Cooper motioned to approve the Minutes of the December 2014 Meeting. Mr. Schramm seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Gasparro asked Mr. Rinebold how his company could assist this Commission with a Microgrid. Mr. Rinebold explained the assistance they offer. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this subject.

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The discussion included funding for microgrids, and what constitutes a microgrid. Mr. Rinebold distributed a map entitled Critical Area Facilities – Hamden, CT, Rural Community Energy Assurance Program. Mr. Rinebold suggested that the Commissioners mark this map with their suggestions and send it to him. They will then work with the Commission regarding securing a microgrid. Mr. Rinebold will set up a meeting with Mr. Marchand. He said anyone else who would like to be included in the meeting should contact Commissioner Cooper. Mr. Padilla gave an overview of the work he would be doing involving this program. Commissioner Mador said that this Commission would be pleased to assist Mr. Rinebold and Mr. Padilla in their efforts.

Mr. Mador asked about hydrogen re-powering stations. He pointed out that Mr. Rinebold drives a hydrogen power car. There was a discussion regarding this subject.

Mr. Gasparro thanked Mr. Sewell, Ms. O'Neill, Mr. Rinebold and Mr. Padilla for attending the meeting.

Mr. Gasparro sent the letter to the Mayor regarding an energy audit for Hamden Government Center, but has not heard back from him. He will send the letter again tomorrow.

NEW BUSINESS

There was a discussion regarding the Earth Day event which will be held on April 18th. The Commissioners discussed what they would do and display at this event. Mr. Cooper suggested taking people thru disireusa.org. This site lists all the energy programs available in every state. There was a discussion regarding this suggestion. Mr. Mador said it would be good to have someone volunteer to plan/set up for the event. Mr. Schramm said we should be sure to participate in the scavenger hunt. Mr. Gasparro said we will have a sign-up sheet at the next meeting for volunteers. Mr. Schramm will bring his display to the Earth Day event. Mr. Mador suggested having a Chevy Volt on display. Mr. Cooper suggested have a representative from Partyka Chevrolet attend the event. It was also suggested having a display of alternative vehicles. Mr. Mador will speak with the General Manager at Partyka Chevrolet. Mr. Schramm suggested having the vehicle placed on the grass circle.

Next, there was a discussion regarding what we can do with Next Step Living. It was suggested that Mr. Marchand handle this.

Mr. Cooper will e-mail information regarding a guest who will be at the Commission Meeting next month.

Next, there was a discussion regarding Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc. regarding a microgrid. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the training that is offered by this group.

Mr. Mador discussed two bills that will be before the State Legislature. Mr. Mador explained what is included in these bills.

Mr. Mador motioned that this Commission endorse Senate Bill Number 570. Mr. Cooper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mador motioned that this Commission endorse House Bill Number 6023. Mr. Lier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion regarding electric charging stations.

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 8:57 PM.**

Submitted by: _____
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk