

**ENERGY USE AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 2016
7:00 PM
MAIN FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER
2750 DIXWELL
HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT**

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE: Martin Mador, Chairman
Tom Fortuna
Frederick Schramm

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Chris Marchand
Kevin Monahan
Briann Mullin
Susan Kulis
Sam Kumar
Charles Strasser

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Fortuna motioned to approve the Minutes as amended to correct spelling of two names Commissioner Shramm seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Mador discussed the Mission Statement. His goal tonight is to assign people to work on various tasks between meetings. He said he would like a sub-committee to work on the Mission Statement. Mr. Kumar and Ms. Mullin will work on this.

Next, there was a discussion regarding the hiring of an Energy Manager. Mr. Mador said Economic Development Manager Dale Kroop is going to have some responsibility for Energy. However, Mr. Mador feels that a full time Energy Manager is needed. He said perhaps there could be a shared Energy Manager with other Towns. Mr. Mador continued discussing this topic. Mr. Kulis and Mr. Marchand agreed with Mr. Mador. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this subject.

Mr. Fortuna motioned that the Energy Use & Climate Change Commission go on record that the Commission recommends that the Town obtain the services of an Energy Manager. Mr. Mador seconded the motion. Mr. Marchand pointed out that this is a self-paying position due to the amount of money that would be saved on energy costs. Mr. Mador discussed other towns in Connecticut that have Energy Managers. Mr. Fortuna called the question. **The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.** Mr. Mador said he would like to create a sub-committee to look into what towns have Energy Managers, and the details of the positions, job descriptions, etc. Mr. Cooper and Mr. Monahan volunteered for this sub-committee.

Mr. Kumar gave a report regarding the West Hartford Comprehensive Energy Plan. A packet containing information regarding this plan was included in the packet that was distributed by Mr. Mador. Mr. Kumar discussed the information in this report.

Mr. Marchand pointed out that most of the things on this list have been accomplished by the Town. He listed these accomplishments.

There was a discussion regarding the curriculum in schools regarding sustainability.

Mr. Kumar also discussed the energy program in West Haven.

Mr. Strasser asked how a baseline is established. Mr. Marchand explained this process.

Next, Mr. Mador discussed the \$36,000 available from Greenbank. Mr. Mador said the Mayor's office is fully on board with the Commission's recommendation to purchase an e-vehicle. Mr. Fortuna asked if this has been placed on the Council Agenda. Mr. Mador didn't know. He said that it has been indicated by the Mayor's Office that the vehicle would be used by the Building Department. Mr. Mador said the Commission will need to be in contact with the Mayor's Office to be sure this gets done. There was a discussion regarding this subject.

Next, there was a discussion regarding the \$15,000 Bright Ideas grant. There will also be another \$15,000 available under this UI program. Mr. Mador suggested that this be tabled to next month's meeting.

Next, Mr. Mador discussed Commercial and Residential PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy). Mr. Mador explained this program. Mr. Mador said that if the Commission does not spend the entire \$36,000 Greenbank will allow the Commission to use the remaining funds to join PACE Nation.

Mr. Mador discussed the information that is available through the EnergizeCT website listed on the Agenda.

Next, Mr. Mador discussed a letter sent to Governor Malloy and CARB regarding Support for Zero Emission Vehicles. This letter was signed by the several Connecticut Mayors including Mayor Leng.

Next, Mr. Mador discussed the New CT Sustainable Communities Program. The website for this program is provided in the agenda.

Mr. Mador discussed work done by Woodie Weiss in Madison. A Page from Mr. Weiss was provided in the packet handed out. The page lists Mr. Weiss' accomplishments in Madison.

The Mayor has made a deal with UI to upgrade all the street lights in Hamden to LEDs. The Town will continue to pay for the electricity used. There was a discussion regarding this subject.

Mr. Fortuna asked for an update on appointments and expansion of the Commission. Mr. Mador said he has no information, but has spoken to the Mayor about expanding the Commission to 15 members. There was a discussion regarding members or potential members changing party affiliations to be able to serve on this Commission.

Mr. Mador said the Mayor is very pleased with this Commission. He said that if he goes to the Mayor with a request from the Commission the Mayor will make it happen.

Mr. Mador discussed meetings he would like to schedule. These include meetings with Town Department Heads, Board of Education members, and Legislative Council Members. He said it is very important that the Commission meet with Council President Jim Pascarella. There was a discussion regarding this subject. Mr. Mador suggested speaking with Former President of the BOE and present State Representative Mike D'Agostino regarding how to approach the BOE members.

Mr. Mador said regarding these meetings he will not be doing this alone. He will need the Commission members to help in this endeavor.

Next, there was a discussion regarding a Commission website. Mr. Fortuna discussed the need for marketing. There was a discussion regarding a facebook page. Mr. Fortuna suggested a Marketing Sub-Committee be created. He would be willing to chair this sub-committee. Mr. Fortuna said the first thing that needs to be done is to create a mechanism to get the Commission's message out. Mr. Fortuna asked if the Commission wants a facebook page. It was felt that the Commission should have a facebook page. The content of the page was discussed. Mr. Cooper said he has a facebook page - Forum for Environmental Technologies, and suggested that the Commissioners view it. Mr. Monahan will work with Mr. Fortuna on the Market Sub-Committee. Ms. Kulis will send Mr. Fortuna ideas for the facebook page.

Mr. Fortuna distributed information regarding Soofa Benches. This is a bench powered by solar energy. It provides charging for mobile devices as well as a social experience and conversation piece for the public. The cost is \$4,050 each or \$35,000 for 10. Mr. Fortuna noted that they are being used in about 50 cities in the country, including New York and Boston.

Mr. Mador listed where information is available and the need to set up a reference center for the Commission as well as the public.

Next, Mr. Mador discussed the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). He discussed the need to add energy language to this document. Mr. Mador said the Mayor is very open to this idea. He distributed a document regarding this subject.

Next, he discussed compiling an Energy History. He said that there is now an agreement with the Town to acquire the files on Mr. Marchand's town computer. This will provide comprehensive information regarding the history of energy projects in Town. Mr. Mador has a promise from the Mayor that these files will be provided. Ms. Mullin will work on this project.

Next, Mr. Mador discussed a member of the Commission appearing before the Republican Town Committee to discuss recruiting members to serve on this Commission. Mr. Fortuna will look into this.

Next, there was a discussion regarding the re-building of West Woods School and the "renovating to be like new" Shepard Glen School. Mr. Mador discussed this Commission becoming involved in this process. He reported that the Mayor said a member of this Commission could be a liaison to the BOE Building Committee. Mr. Mador also discussed the lost opportunity to become the first LEEDS school in the State. Mr. Mador said he would like to ask the Mayor to appoint a member of this Commission to the BOE Building Commission as a liaison. He added that at next month's meeting there will be a discussion regarding who would fill this position.

Announcements:

Northeast Summit for a Sustainable Built Environment Conference, Yale, April 28-29, 2017.

PACE (People's Action for Clean Energy) salute to Judi and Lou Friedman. Website provided in the agenda.

Next, Mr. Shramm discussed microgrids. He said there will be a meeting with the Legislative Council and Commission members regarding microgrids. Mr. Fortuna asked if there has been a vote by the Commission regarding microgrids. Mr. Fortuna said he would like information regarding this subject. Mr. Shramm said the Commission would be recommending that the Town, through the Legislative Council, support the deployment of microgrids.

Mr. Schramm explained what a microgrids is and what it provides. This would provide energy during a critical power failure. He said the primary microgrid would be the High School, Ice Rink and the grocery store and businesses in the Hamden Plaza. Mr. Shramm said the High School has the fuel cell on site. Unfortunately, the software needed for the fuel cell to operate independently was not purchased. This would be rectified with the microgrid installation. Mr. Schramm discussed the funding sources for a microgrid. Mr. Shramm also explained the establishment of Sleeping Giant Energy and the need for the Legislative Council to designate Sleeping Giant Energy as the Energy Development Agent for the Town. Mr. Fortuna asked why this is not a civil preparedness issue. Mr. Shramm said it is both, and the fire and police would be involved. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this subject. Mr. Mador pointed out that the Commission can recommend the research and development of a microgrid, but could not recommend a particular group to handle this. Mr. Shramm would like to have a meeting with Commission members and the Legislative Council to discuss microgrids.

Mr. Fortuna motioned that the Energy Use & Climate Change Commission meet to discuss microgrids with the Legislative Council members. Mr. Cooper seconded. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

There will be a discussion regarding ZRECs next month.

Mr. Mador said there is nothing pressing going on at the State level. He will provide an update next month.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Commission and a motion to adjourn was called for. **Commissioner Cooper motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Shramm seconded the motion that passed unanimously.** Chairman Mador adjourned the meeting at 9:25 PM.

Submitted by _____
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk