

TOWN OF HAMDEN
ENERGY USE AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION
MEETING

January 25, 2010
7:00 PM
HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER
2750 DIXWELL AVENUE
HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT 06518

Commissioners In Attendance: Frank Gasparro, Chairman
Bernard Brennan
Matt Corcoran
Martin Mador
Giovanni Zinn

Others in Attendance: Chris Marchand
Peggy Craft, Acting Clerk of the Commission
Frederick Stram

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gasparro called the meeting to order at 7:13 PM.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance was taken as noted above.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2009 MINUTES

Approval of the December 2009 Minutes was moved to the February meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Marchand reported that he spoke with Roger Smith who informed him that there would be a Connecticut Efficient Energy Fund information session held this Wednesday, January 27th in Easton. There was a discussion regarding this topic. Mr. Marchand will try to attend this session.

Mr. Marchand said that CEEF is offering a grant in the amount of \$2,000. He has sent in an application that is in the initials stages for approval.

Next, Mr. Marchand reported that sign-ups for clean energy are well over 660. He added that this represents a big spike. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this.

Mr. Gasparro said his students next activity for sign-ups will be on March 13th or April 4th.

Mr. Mador informed the Commissioners that people can sign up for clean energy and with another service provider at the same time. There was a discussion regarding this. Mr. Gasparro will look into obtaining literature regarding this to be given out at planned events. Mr. Gasparro said the website that has a list of different providers is ctenergyinfo.com. Mr. Mador suggested that this be included in the information given to people interested in signing up for clean energy.

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Mr. Marchand is hoping for a ribbon cutting at the Middle School. Mr. Brennan suggested that this be held on Earth Day.

Next, There was a discussion regarding funding for clean energy program.

Mr. Marchand asked if anyone had looked at the Performa of the fuel cell that he sent out via e-mail. He passed a copy of the Performa to the Commissioners for their review.

Mr. Mador commented that as he recalled we needed the fuel cell to meet our commitment. Mr. Marchand said this was correct.

Mr. Vargas said this fuel cell should last 40,000 hours or approximately ten years. This is based on operational time. A lengthy discussion regarding this topic followed.

Mr. Mador asked what the status of this proposal is. Mr. Marchand said this is on the Board of Education's Operations Committee agenda for their next meeting. Mr. Brennan asked if this Commission should send a letter of support. Mr. Marchand said that Commissioner Mitch already has.

Mr. Marchand said it would be good if members of the commission attended the BOE Operations Committee meeting.

Mr. Mador asked where the Town Engineer stood on this issue. Mr. Marchand said he has not been "in the loop" but could be brought in if it was deemed necessary.

Mr. Zinn discussed the different aspect of fuel cells and added that movement on fuel cells has been slow but is speeding up, and we should move quickly on this. He added that we should make sure that the BOE understands this.

There was a discussion regarding stacks and the cost of stack replacement. Mr. Zinn explained this, and also discussed the problems with the Peabody stack. He also discussed the stack at the WPCA. Discussion regarding the fuel cell continued.

Mr. Mador said he has installed a tankless water heater. Mr. Mador has researched this and will share what he has learned with anyone who is interested. There was a discussion regarding the various energy saving measures that the Commissioners have undertaken. Mr. Zinn reported that he and Mr. Marchand would soon be getting their solar rays.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Mador said that we should find out what Recycling Coordinator Pam Roach has in mind for Earth Day. He added that this Commission should have a presence there. Mr. Zinn suggested that we do something different this year. Several ideas were suggested.

Mr. Mador asked if Mr. Gasparro's group would be interested in doing something at Earth Day. Mr. Gasparro said his students would be doing signups that day. Mr. Zinn suggested that a board presentation showing the uses of renewable energy in Town be presented.

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Mr. Mador asked Mr. March how soon the \$2000 grant would be received. He also asked if that could be used for this board. Mr. Marchand said it could.

Further discussion of what could be done at Earth Day continued. Mr. Mador suggested that Ms. Roach be invited to the next meeting. Mr. Marchand will contact Ms. Roach and ask her to attend.

Next, Mr. Mador asked if the Commission should invite former Hamden Mayor, and newly appointed Executive Director of the South Central Council of Government, Carl Amento to the next meeting. There was a discussion regarding this.

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 Vargas seconded the motion that passed with a unanimous vote. Chairman Gasparro adjourned the meeting at 8:13 PM.

Submitted by: _____
Peggy Craft, Acting Clerk of the Commission