

TOWN OF HAMDEN
ENERGY USE AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION
MEETING

APRIL 16, 2010

7:00 PM

HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER
2750 DIXWELL AVENUE
HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT 06518

Commissioners In Attendance: Frank Gasparro, Chairman
Matt Corcoran
Martin Mador
Azalea Mitch
Frederick Stramm
Chris Vargas
Giovanni Zinn

Others in Attendance: Chris Marchand
Peggy Craft, Acting Clerk of the Commission
Frank Gatter, Experience Corp

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:16 PM there was not a quorum. Chairman Gasparro called an informal meeting to order at that time.

Chairman Gasparro invited Frank Gatter to introduce himself, and explain his interest in this Commission. Mr. Gatter is a member of Experience Corp. This organization is made up of people over 55, many of whom are retired. Due to the shortage of tutors in local schools, they perform this service and are paid a stipend. Mr. Gatter is currently tutoring at Bear Path School. They are required to attend one civic meeting a year. Mr. Gatter explained that he is interested in conservation and that is why he chose this Commission meeting.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance was taken as noted above.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES

The Commission members approved the January 2010 Minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Marchand discussed the fuel cell and Power Point. The Commission would like to see at least an application to the Clean Energy Fund. They also discussed what Power Point thinks would be a better alternative.

The Commission has heard from Power Point that they are banking on Senate Bill 463. Power Point is banking on this proposed legislation even before they have presented to this Commission. It is felt that this is problematic because it is wasting time.

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Next, there was a discussion of State component funding

Mr. Marchand spoke with CAO Curt Leng who feels that we should put the application in so that we can get into the queue for a fuel cell. We would need to review the contract with Power Point. The other issue is that Eric Robbie of UTC can't put our name in the queue until the Fund approves our application. The fuel cell is not as good an opportunity as it was last year. It was noted that we could lose the chance.

Commissioners Mador, Vargas and Zinn arrived at this point, and a quorum was reached.

Commissioner Mador discussed Senate Bill 463 and its content as well as problems with this bill. Discussion regarding this Bill, Power Point Energy and fuel cells continued.

There was a discussion of the Power Point Energy agreement. Mr. Marchand will ask the Town Attorney to review the agreement.

Commissioner Zinn discussed a similar project in New Haven their Town Hall. He also discussed fuel cells as opposed to combined heat and energy.

It was noted that this Commission needs to act quickly to insure the funds from CCF.

Mr. Marchand will look at contract and forward it to the Commissioners. It was asked if we need this to meet the renewable energy commitment. Mr. Marchand said it is.

Discussions continued regarding the best way to handle this, including how the application would be handled, and who would apply. The discussion also included whether this could go out to bid or for an RFP.

Next, it was asked if there is a State Bid for this? A discussion followed regarding how many vendors there are in Connecticut and who can provide this service. Mr. Marchand will follow up on this.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Gasparro discussed Earth Day. Chairman Gasparro explained what his group of students would be doing. Mr. Gasparro passed out information regarding Earth Day. This included a map showing where his groups of students would be. The location included Brueggers Bagels, Stop & Shop, Old Navy, Bob's, Best Video, Spring Glen Hardware, Books & Co, Jimmy's Urban Clothing, etc. He said there would be faculty members at each site. Mr. Gasparro encouraged the Commission Members to visit one of the sites. He added that the Mayor and Hamden Hall's Headmaster might stop by Brueggers.

There was a discussion regarding the signup forms. Mr. Gasparro will mail these to the Commissioners.

Next there was a discussion and suggestions regarding the LED Program.

Commissioner Stramm explained LEDs (Light Emitting Diodes).

The Commissioners discussed incentives for programs that would earn a seal of approval.

Commission Stramm discussed creating a demonstration property. He suggested Tommy K's building. Commissioner Mador felt that doing this at a building housing a tanning facility would be encouraging an activity that can cause cancer to save energy. There were further discussions regarding what else could be done there including solar, geo thermal, wind and hydro electricity.

Mr. Gasparro and Mr. Marchand will be going to the UI Smart Living Center on April 26th. Mr. Gasparro will be a panel speaker, discussing his success with his signup strategy. Commissioners Mitch and Zinn will try to attend also.

Mr. Gasparro said he would try to engage the public school personnel in this Commission's events. Among those he would like to include are Scott Trauner, Elisa Luppi and Frank Caraglio.

It was asked when the Power Point's contract is up. Mr. Marchand will look into this.

Commissioner Mador motioned that this Commission be notified of any contracts for energy or energy consulting that are being considered. Commissioner Mitch seconded the motioned. After a short discussion, Chairman Gasparro called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Next, it was asked if we could make it a policy of the Town that a member of the Energy Use and Climate Change Commission be a part of the Building Committee.

There was a lengthy discussion on how to get a commitment from the Town to make us part of the decisions on building energy.

Commissioner Mitch made a motion that the Town designate a seat on the Building Committee for a member of the Energy Use and Climate Change Commission, the designee to be determined by a vote of this Commission. Commissioner Mador seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Commissioner Stramm motioned that the Commission put forth the idea to the Legislative Council to endorse life cycle costs in the design of any future building or renovation projects. Commissioner Vargas seconded the motion.

A friendly amendment was made by Commissioner Mador and accepted by Commissioners Stramm and Vargas to change the wording of the motion to:

A motion is made that the Legislative Council require the consideration of life cycle costs in the design of any future building or renovation projects.

There was no further discussion regarding this motion and Chairman Gasparro called for a vote. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Commission and Chairman Gasparro called for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Zinn motioned for adjournment. Commissioner Vargas seconded the motion that passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.**

Submitted by:

Peggy Craft, Acting Clerk of the Commission