

**TOWN OF HAMDEN**  
**ENERGY USE AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION**  
**MEETING**

**MAY 17, 2010**

**7:00 PM**

**HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER**  
**2750 DIXWELL AVENUE**  
**HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT 06518**

Commissioners In Attendance: Frank Gasparro, Chairman  
Matt Corcoran  
Martin Mador  
Frederick Schramm  
Giovanni Zinn

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ATTENDANCE**

Attendance was taken as noted above.

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES**

The Commission members approved the April 2010 Minutes.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The fuel cell at the High School was discussed. Mr. Marchand has also discussed this with the Mayor who said we should continue with the fuel cell. Mr. Marchand has spoken with UTC. They would like to do combined energy at the High School. Mr. Marchand said this is still contingent upon the Senate Bill.

It was the feeling of this Commission that we want to proceed with the fuel cell. Mr. Marchand has sent several e-mails to the parties involved in this stating that we need to act on this.

A discussion regarding how to move forward on the fuel followed. During the discussion it was noted that the fuel cell would get us over our commitment of 20% renewable energy by the end of this calendar year. This would be a power purchase agreement.

**Commissioner Brennan motioned to remind the Town that this Commission has strongly endorsed the installation of a fuel cell in the High School and that this power purchase agreement is necessary for the Town to meet its commitment of 20% renewable energy by the end of this calendar year. Commissioner Mador seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and Chairman Gasparro called for a vote. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.**

Mr. Marchand said this Commission will receive \$15,000 to fund projects for residents, research, and innovative programs.

Commissioner Schramm provided the Commissioners with information regarding an incentive program being conducted in the West Hartford School System.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding this program and how it could be implemented in the Hamden School System. Among the suggestions were competitions between schools, and within schools. Mr. Schramm suggested that we create a plan that would involve all parties. Mr. Mador added that this should be done with the agreement and cooperation of the Legislative Council. Mr. Marchand suggested that this be sent to the Superintendent of Schools. It was also thought that Quinnipiac University could be encouraged to become involved in this program.

Further discussion continued on this topic. Commissioner Mador suggested that we put together a proposal for an energy initiative across Town and present this to the Legislative Council. He added that if this is done, and presented in the schools the District Councilmember could be invited to attend. Mr. Mador said an overview of an energy saving initiative could be presented to the Council, including what other towns do, and we could ask the Council how interested they would be in doing this.

Commissioner Zinn said we can write all kinds of plans but with out buy-ins from all the parties involved it won't work. He added that this would be a big uphill battle. He said we do have a plan - The Climate Action Plans. He said this is a great plan and ahead of its time. Commissioner Zinn said we have written plans and nothing has been done. Mr. Marchand will e-mail The Climate Action Plan to the Commissioners.

Mr. Mador said that connections and awareness are very important – possibly more important than a plan right now. He also said that the first step is to make connections with the Mayor's office, the Council, the School Facility Manager, etc.

Commissioner Zinn suggested that we use the \$15,000 to encourage competition between schools by awarding them with a pizza party.

Commissioner Schramm said he feels this is exactly the time to get the ball rolling

All agreed that it is necessary to call Superintendent of Schools Fran Rabinowitz and ask her to meet with us.

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Mr. Marchand suggested that the Commission go to the Operations Committee Meeting that Ms. Rabinowitz attends. Mr. Zinn said we should go through the School Superintendent's office and mention it to the Mayor and go from there. He added that we should keep the scope narrow on this.

Chairman Gasparro said we should do something to make it fun for the kids. He suggested a Christmas cards contest. There was a discussion regarding selling these cards and if, and how this would effect the federal funding.

There was a discussion regarding whether these programs should be done in private schools.

Chairman Gasparro will call Superintendent of Schools Rabinowitz to set up a meeting. He will also ask her to invite all those she thinks would be able to contribute to this meeting. Mr. Gasparro will send her the West Hartford Plan and the Town Energy Conservation Plan.

Further discussion regarding this subject will be deferred to next month.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Gasparro reported that 59 signups were received on Earth Day. He added that he would like to expand this program next year and perhaps challenge other schools.

There was a discussion of Earth Day and the Earth Day event held at the Middle School.

It was decided to invite Councilmember Kath Schomaker to next month's meeting to discuss how to involve the Legislative Council with this Commission's plans and activities.

**Commissioner Gasparro motioned to cancel the June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting and reschedule it to June 28<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Zinn seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

There will be a meeting on Wednesday night held by UI. This meeting will be on May 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM to discuss energy reduction strategies for residents. There was a discussion regarding this meeting. Several of the Commissioners will try to attend.

Commissioner Brennan discussed how this Commission could get more recognition to enable us to be more proactive. He feels that this should include being involved with the Mayor and the Council.

Mr. Schamm discussed acquiring a demonstration property. He still feels that Tommy K's is the best location. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this suggestion. Mr. Mador still has a problem with energizing a building with a tanning parlor.

Mr. Mador suggests that a UI Executive be invited to a meeting to discuss a regional demonstration center. Mr. Gasparro will contact UI regarding this suggestion.

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Mr. Marchand asked the Commissioners to read the memo from Mayor Jackson to the Fire Marshal regarding outdoor burning. This will be held for discussion at next month's meeting.

Commissioner Schramm discussed an Energy Seals Program. He said there would be two sets of seals and explained the different color designations. He also discussed how and where these seals could be awarded.

It was suggested that the Commission contact the Chamber of Commerce regarding this. Chairman Gasparro will call the Chamber.

Chairman Gasparro discussed the motions made at last month's motions what happens with them. Mr. Mador said these suggestions must be done through the Mayor's office.

**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 Brennan seconded the motion that passed with a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.**

Submitted by:

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Peggy Craft, Acting Clerk of the Commission