

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Public Works Department, 4 Turkey Hill Road, Newtown

Thursday, December 21, 2023

Called to order 7:02

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION

Present: Kathy Quinn, David Stout, Nicolas Lombardo, Damian Bednarz, Allen Adriani

Absent: George Brown, Carol Walsh, Mike Oristaglio, Robert Bohn

Also Present: Director of Public Works Fred Hurley

Communications – K. Quinn reported that she was reaching out to schedule a tour of the battery facility in Danbury. She would like to schedule a tour in January.

Acceptance of Minutes – N. Lombardo moved to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2023, and meeting. K. Quinn seconded, all in favor.

Update to Smart Power residential storage program – No update. K. Quinn noted the program is still available as a battery backup and storage.

Sub-Committees

Plans of Conservation and Development – K. Quinn made note that she has had a zoom meeting with people putting the entire plan together. K. Quinn asked attendees to do the survey and complete it and to be as accurate as they can and to make sure to add different kinds of development projects that might move to be included. K. Quinn noted that they had asked for issues to be noted. She noted an issue including State policies that limit our ability to additional nonresidential solar installations. The survey must be completed by March.

Batchelder Site - F. Hurley had attended a town planning meeting that occurs once a month. The development at Batchelder and the roll that is now going to be played by sustainable energy. F. Hurley had put in a placeholder for \$200,000 in one of the budgets to support the effort to get the engineer to put the remediation plan together to apply for the grants to remediate. At that meeting, John Voket talked to Johanna Hayes the congressional office. They think there could be a possibility of a million- and one-half dollars available for remediation. This makes the opportunity to bring in a developer more attractive. It means that much less in order to do the property. It would also qualify the property for an additional investment 10% tax credit. K. Quinn – Draft Remedial Action Plan for Batchelder Property. She noted that the proposal of the rail trail from Monroe to be continued through the property for recreational use and area be set aside for parking near the trail. She asked attendees what else they would need to do to move this to fruition. F. Hurley said there needs to be an outline what it is the action plan is. As a board you adopt it and then request it be put into action.

K. Quinn moved to request the town engineer investigate the next steps to file for the development of the professional engineering plan for the remediation of Batchelder properties. D. Stout seconded, all in favor.

EV Charging stations/10K Grant – Edmond Town Hall EV charging station is almost complete.

Costs are covered for the EV station. In One to two months, it should be up and running.

F. Hurley requested a recommendation of what company to go with.

K. Quinn moved to recommend to Fred Hurley BreezeEV as the preferred vendor for Edmond Town Hall. Was voted on and there was a unanimous vote in favor of the BreezeEV. D. Stout seconded, all in favor.

Energy Storage – No update,

Portfolio Manager – No update.

Status of Solar Projects – Only update: Mead O’ Meadow School. One part of the roof will be done. F. Hurley will meet with John Baros and his roof consultant. They have three years to get this job completed.

D. Stout recommended a solar roofing company and material.

F. Hurley noted the three other projects have not been a response from PURA.

Off Site 1MW VNM – Still waiting. Credit is still available.

School Updates – There is a problem with Hawley School. The rooms are overheated. A. Adriani said that it is being addressed.

Town Building Strategic Plan Committee – They will be making a presentation to the new board of selectmen and will move forward from there.

Municipal Energy Plan – No update

Social Media – Web Site, Facebook etc. updates – D. Stout and D. Bednarz will meet and coordinate with other colleagues to collaborate to bring the website together.

Email blasts for promotion of Earth Day and the new website will be designed and the tool to advertise for other agencies. This website will be the one stop location for all the information that needs to be shared.

They spoke of bringing in High Schoolers and others to brainstorm for Earth Day and content. Need to be driving energy reduction.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

Changes to recycling/Composting Efforts – F. Hurley is looking for a representative for an adhoc committee working on a pilot program addressing the trash crisis in the state.

Lighting at FFH – F. Hurley suggested that there should be a project in FFH for controlled lighting. There should be the availability of dimming mechanisms. The lighting should be controlled. F. Hurley received a message from S. Schaake from Tiger Technologies LLC dba USA LED asking to have a meeting with Fred to present a proposal for lighting that is compliant and includes installation by USA LED.

Adjournment – Next Meeting Date – Jan. 18th, 2024

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wendy Devereaux, Clerk pro tem