

**ENERGY COMMITTEE**  
**TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR**

**Minutes**

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**October 17, 2017**

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**Madden Room – South Windsor Town Hall**

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Members Present: Hank Cullinane, Resident  
Athena Loukellis, Resident  
Deputy Mayor Janice Snyder, Town Council  
Sherman Tarr, Resident

Members Absent: Larry Brown, Resident  
William Carroll, Town Council  
Patrick Hankard, Board of Education  
Councilor Edward Havens, Town Council  
Mike Gantick, Director of Public Works  
Richard Stahr, Board of Education  
Stephen Wagner, Resident

Others Present: Robert Dickinson, Resident

**3. Approval of Minutes (September 19, 2017)**

There was not a quorum, so the minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting.

**4. Next Meeting**

The next Energy Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, 2017, at 4:30 p.m. in the Madden Room

**5. Business**

**A. Solar on Town Facilities**

*a. Update on Orchard Hill RFP Discussion with BOE*

Mr. Sherman Tarr, Acting Chairman, explained that Chairman Wagner would be attending the Board of Education meeting on November 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Orchard Hill RFP.

**(Discussion Continued on Next Page)**

**ITEM:**

**5. A. (Continued)**

*b. Information on ZRECs, etc.*

Mr. Kent McCord of Solect Energy contacted Chairman Wagner and sent information regarding the ZREC program (Zero Emissions Renewable Energy Credits). A ZREC is a credit from Eversource that is applied to the electricity generated during the first 15 years of the project. This credit is used by RFP responders in their calculations setting the PPA rate they will charge the Town. It is needed to make PPA offers competitive with standard electric rates. The next opportunity to bid on a project like this is in June. The total credits available in any given cycle are allocated to the lower bidders until all the credits are used up. In the past, between 80 and 167 projects have been selected. The Town Council or Board of Education would have final approval. The Energy Committee has discussed doing a solar carport at Orchard Hill. Mr. McCord mentioned that this type of project has been less likely to result in savings, though towns have put them up just for the environmental benefits.

**B. Zoning Changes Regarding Solar Height Limits (Steven)**

*a. Update on Planning & Zoning Discussion*

On October 10<sup>th</sup> proposed text amendments to the solar height limits were presented to the Planning & Zoning Commission. The amendments proposed would relax the 12-foot height limit for ground-based solar installations in certain cases. The Planning & Zoning Commission authorized Mrs. Lipe to forward the proposed amendments to CRCOG. A public hearing will be necessary for these changes.

**C. Energize South Windsor Update (Athena, Hank, and Larry)**

- a. Mailing and other publicity*
- b. Tables at events*

Mrs. Loukellis explained that Samantha had left Eversource which slowed the progress of this program. Allison Jackson has taken over her position. There have been posters made to publicize this program, and these posters will be put in different locations such as the South Windsor

**(Discussion Continued on Next Page)**

**ITEM:**

**5. C. (Continued)**

Public Library, Wapping, the Community Center and town events. Notice has been sent to the newspapers and to Cox Cable. It was also suggested that pamphlets be placed at local businesses. One mailing has been done and will look into doing another mailing. Committee members discussed different rebates that may be available to residents.

**D. Small Business Outreach Effort**

*a. Discussion on whether to select and sponsor a vendor*

At the Energy Committee's last meeting, representatives from Earthlight Technologies presented a program they have used in other towns. Earthlight Technologies would reach out to small businesses for various energy improvements they might consider. The Energy Committee briefly discussed how to fairly make it possible for the town to endorse one or more businesses to provide this service. Should the town conduct interviews and select one business or should the town take any business that qualifies and endorse that business. Committee members discussed this briefly and decided it would be better to table this item for discussion to the next meeting when there are more members present.

**E. Solarize South Windsor Wrap-up (Sherm and Mike)**

*a. Results*

Mr. Tarr reported that the program generated 83 leads, 34 site visits scheduled with 34 completed and eight contracts.

**F. Virtual Net Metering Update**

*a. Status*

The racking and paneling are done. Lodestar is working on the electrical connections and expects to energize in late November.

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**ITEM:**

**5. F. (Continued)**

*b. Possible Visit*

Chairman Wagner stated in his notes that he had requested that committee members identify some dates that work for a visit. Council members will also be invited. Committee members suggested November 1<sup>st</sup> or November 2<sup>nd</sup>. This will give Chairman Wagner the ability to discuss this with Lodestar and invite the Town Council.

**G. Food Waste Processing by Anaerobic Digester and Controlled Environment Agriculture**

*a. Notes from South Windsor Alliance for Progress program*

On October 12, 2017, SWAP hosted a discussion regarding food waste processing. The state is increasing the number of businesses that must divert their food waste from landfills to facilities that process it into energy and other useful byproducts. Quantum Biopower has an anaerobic digester facility in Southington that generates electricity and an odorless solid waste usable as compost. Carla's Pasts sends its food waste to Quantum and finds the process to be very convenient.

Deputy Mayor Snyder explained that the Council had discussed this item at their last meeting and feels this should be done regionally.

*b. Energy Committee role*

Deputy Mayor Snyder explained that the Town Council felt that a committee should be formed to look into food waste processing more. It was suggested that the Energy Committee take the lead on this. Composting units could be provided to residents. A strategy would need to be put together with Quantum Biopower and SWALPAC.

Chairman Wagner wrote that the project's energy could result in a virtual net metering arrangement with a Connecticut municipality or be used by an adjacent Controlled Environment Agriculture facility.

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**ITEM:**

**5. G. b. (Continued)**

Mr. Cullinane stated that he would do some research on this item. Deputy Mayor Snyder also informed the committee that vacant buildings could also be used for farming all year around if property owners would like to partner with the town. The Town Manager is going to get in touch with the Town Manager from Southington to discuss.

*c. Possible partnership with SWALPAC*

Chairman Wagner stated in his notes that he suggested that a partnership with SWALPAC would be desirable and also believes the Energy Committee would need to work with the Redevelopment Agency.

**6. Miscellaneous**

None

**7. Adjournment**

At 5:20 p.m. Deputy Mayor Snyder made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Cullinane seconded the motion; and it was approved, unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Deborah W. Reid  
Clerk of the Council