

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

**Minutes**

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**February 5, 2019**

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**Madden Room – South Windsor Town Hall**

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Members Present:    Hank Cullinane, Resident  
                              Larry Brown, Resident  
                              Robert Dickinson, Resident  
                              Mike Gantick, Director of Public Works  
                              Athena Loukellis, Resident  
                              Councilor Janice Snyder, Town Council  
                              Stephen Wagner, Resident

Members Absent:    Anitha Elango, Town Treasurer  
                              Patrick Hankard, Board of Education  
                              Councilor Mary Justine Hockenberry, Town Council  
                              Athena Loukellis, Resident  
                              Sherman Tarr, Resident

**4. Next Meeting – March 19, 2019, 4:30 p.m., Sprenkel Room**

**5. Business**

**A. Chamber of Commerce Outreach (Athena)**

Mrs. Loukellis announced that the Chamber of Commerce would be holding a Networking Breakfast on Friday, February 8, 2019, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Mr. Robert Schmidt is the featured speaker.

**B. Town Website Communications Plan Update (Athena and Debbie)**

Mrs. Loukellis reported that a meeting was held regarding the additions to the website. There is a tab on the left-hand side of the website titled, "Monthly Energy Tips." Every month a new tip will be added under Monthly Energy Tips and will be categorized by month. These tips will remain on the website so people can look back at previous month tips.

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**ITEM:**

**5. B. (Continued)**

Chairman Wagner requested that the monthly titles be added to so that anyone going to the website will understand what the topic is. Chairman Wagner questioned if the Energy Tips will be on the main page of the website? Mrs. Loukellis stated that something will be put on the main page and also on Facebook.

Mrs. Loukellis stated that at the next meeting she would present the tips for the next three months for the Committee to review.

Mr. Gantick suggested giving the public the ability to subscribe to the Energy Tips..

**C. Update: Solar for Schools (Pat or Steve)**

Chairman Wagner stated that he met with Pat Hankard who explained that the School Administration is in favor of solar on the schools and will be going out for RFP.

**D. Update on Virtual Net Metering (Mike)**

Mr. Gantick reported that Clay Major had conversations with Ambien who have not been able to resolve any of the outstanding issues. They have expressed frustration because they have not been able to coordinate with Lodestar. A meeting with Ambien will be scheduled next week. The bills have all been aligned with the Town's new energy provider. Credits are assigned to each site. There is a backlog of approximately \$150,000 worth of credits.

**E. Update: PV Installations on New Commercial Buildings (Steve)**

Chairman Wagner explained that the Committee had a guest speaker at the last meeting to come talk about photovoltaic (PV) installations on new commercial buildings. Chairman Wagner said he had a few conversations with Michele Lipe who is hesitant for fear of scaring businesses away, but will look into what other Towns are doing and to check if the Planning & Zoning Commission has jurisdiction on this item.

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**ITEM:**

**5. E. (Continued)**

Mr. Dickinson explained that through conversations he has learned that the State controls building requirements so this item cannot be mandated. There may be another way to request it.

Mr. Cullinane stated that solar installations on commercial buildings are going to come out as a mandate nationally. This does not mean the State will not take it out.

**F. Climate Letter to Council (Larry)**

Chairman Wagner explained that the Committee would review a letter that Mr. Brown wrote and a resolution that he wrote. Mr. Brown stated that he would have revisions to the letter at the next meeting. Committee members reviewed the resolution. Mr. Brown questioned if the word disincentives in the last WHEREAS is appropriate. Chairman Wagner explained that it should read disincentivize. After a lengthy discussion, Committee members agreed that the last paragraph should be changed.

Mr. Brown made a motion to change the last paragraph of the resolution to read: NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the South Windsor Town Council hereby encourages the Connecticut Legislature to aggressively pursue such carbon reduction initiatives that can and should be implemented at the regional and wider levels. Mr. Gantick seconded the motion; and it was approved, unanimously.

Committee members discussed that if this issue is adopted by the Town Council, then it can be shared with other Town's. The letter that Mr. Brown is working on will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Mr. Gantick suggested that language is added into the resolution regarding the Town's participation with Earth Day.

**ITEM:**

**5. Business (Continued)**

- G. Sustainable CT “Sustainable Event” and “Optimize for Equity” Toolkits**
- H. Discussion Item: Town-Wide Climate Forum**

Chairman Wagner stated that there are many organizations in South Windsor that have an impact on climate change. This item has been discussed briefly with Mrs. Lipe who sent items regarding two sections under Sustainable CT (Section 7.1 Hold a Sustainability Event, and Section 9.1 Optimize for Equity). Committee members discussed this item briefly, and Mr. Gantick suggested that a letter is written to the Council recommending that Leadership Roundtable is re-established which could help to start up discussions. Chairman Wagner stated that he would draft a letter that can be reviewed by the Committee at the next meeting.

**I. 2018 Energy Usage Update (Steve)**

Chairman Wagner explained that he wrote a letter to Eversource Energy asking for them to provide an update regarding the energy usage which has been going down in our community. Chairman Wagner stated that he hopes to have the new data for 2018 for the next meeting.

Mr. Cullinane informed the Council that the State is trying to pass a Bill for LREC for residential. Chairman Wagner stated that would encourage people to use heat pumps. Mr. Cullinane explained that Utilities wants to push heat pumps.

**6. Miscellaneous**

Mr. Dickinson informed the Committee that on Friday, February 8, 2019, at 79 Elm Street there is an EV Meeting about promoting electric vehicles from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Mr. Cullinane questioned if that would meet the requirements for Sustainable CT.

Answering a question from Mrs. Loukellis, Mr. Gantick explained that the textile recycling would hopefully begin in April.

Mrs. Loukellis recommended that events be held in conjunction with Earth Day to help with Sustainable CT.

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**ITEM:**

**7.    Adjournment**

At 5:44 p.m. Mr. Dickinson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Loukellis seconded the motion; and it was approved, unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Deborah W. Reid  
Clerk of the Council