

# ENERGY COMMITTEE

## TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR

Minutes

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May 11, 2021

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### Virtual Meeting

#### 1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:43 p.m.

#### 2. Roll Call

Members Present: Darrell Crowley, Board of Education  
Hank Cullinane, Resident  
Jeff Doolittle, Town Engineer  
Marek Kozikowski, Board of Education  
Athena Loukellis, Resident  
Councilor Janice Snyder, Town Council  
Sherman Tarr, Resident  
Chairperson Stephen Wagner, Resident

Members Absent: Larry Brown, Resident  
Councilor Cesar Lopez, Town Council  
James MacPherson, Resident  
Mayor Andrew Paterna, Town Council

#### 4. **Next Meeting** – June 8, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. in the Madden Room

#### 5. **Business**

- A. Zoning Regulations Text Amendment for Electric Vehicle Charging - Approved

Chairperson Wagner informed the Committee that the text amendment for Electric Vehicle Charging was approved unanimously with minor changes.

- B. Police Station Solar Canopies – ZREC Status

The Town will be applying for ZREC this month.

Mr. Doolittle explained that he needs to get the form signed by the Town Manager and back to Greenskies. Chief Lindstrom met with the Vernon Police Department, who reviewed issues they have had with their solar canopies, so we will be meeting with Greenskies to talk about the canopies not being protected from the weather like originally thought and ice forming under the canopies.

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**ITEM:**

**5. Business (*Continued*)**

C. Update: Platt Hill Virtual Net Metering projects

Chairperson Wagner informed the Committee that the Platt Hill Virtual Net Metering project had to go to the Siting Council because there were concerns about the wetlands treatment. They approved the project last Friday, and Lodestar will begin with the construction of the project. This project should come online late this year or early next year.

D. Municipal Energy Plan – Discussion on areas to work on

Chairperson Wagner felt that the Committee should make comments if any changes should happen in each area and felt that the Committee should review the goals.

Energy Monitoring – Chairperson Wagner explained that the Town has been using Portfolio Manager. It is a lot of work, as well as a lot of knowledge necessary to use it, and requires assistance from the Town. Chairperson Wagner felt that the Town should use a system that is more sustainable. Mr. Doolittle added that the Town monitors energy using spreadsheets. There are separate billings for every building. Mr. Crowley monitors the energy use of the schools. Mr. Crowley stated that he is working on trying to come up with a better way of doing this.

Chairperson Wagner stated that tracking is an issue that can be discussed.

Grants and Incentives section should be updated.

Section on Fleet Vehicle and Equipment Management – Mr. Doolittle is working on an equipment plan with Jim MacPherson. We probably want to have electric vehicle charging. Mr. Doolittle suggested adding a goal for getting some electric vehicles in a certain timeframe in the fleet.

Chairperson Wagner stated that there are also the electric vehicles in the multi-units.

The Energy Committee should think about diminishing the Solarize CT and Energize CT programs.

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**ITEM:**

**5. D. (Continued)**

Chairperson Wagner felt that something should be put into the Municipal Energy Plan regarding the EV Charging.

Mr. Kozikowski inquired about the regulations for ground-mounted solar arrays? Chairperson Wagner explained that there are two separate sections. One section for small and one section for large. The small regulations have been used and were updated with a height limit.

Chairperson Wagner informed the Committee that Mrs. Loukellis went to all of the Town departments and updated actions that have been taken in the plan. If anyone can think of anything else that should be worked on, they should inform the Committee.

- E. Live Green CT's Municipal EV Readiness Toolkit 9 Month Program
- a. Virtual "Clarity Session" Tuesday, May 12, 11:00 a.m. to noon.
  - b. Strategy Discussions

Chairperson Wagner explained that on May 12, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., those involved with Live Green CT – EV Readiness Toolkit will have a webinar which they are calling a Clarity Session. This will affect all of the projects that the Energy Committee will be working on.

Module 2: Municipal Fleet (Mr. Doolittle and Mr. MacPherson)

Module 3: Zoning – the Town has done this. Chairperson Wagner has offered to help other communities.

Module 5: MUD Charging – MJ Hockenberry had volunteered to work on this item.

Module 6: Public & Destination Charging – Mr. Brown will be working on this item.

Module 7: Parking& Enforcement – Not a lot of work. If we have issues with enforcement, we can discuss later.

Module 8: First Responders – Mrs. Loukellis has contacted the Fire Department. Chief Cooney explained that the South Windsor Volunteer Fire Department has looked into electric fire trucks, but there is no specific plan because they are very expensive. The Committee should talk with the Fire Department about other vehicles they use.

Module 9: Shuttle Buses – Mrs. Karen Wagner will be working on this item.

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**ITEM:**

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Councilor Snyder made a motion to approve the minutes with a revision under Item 5. D. (the second sentence should read, “In 2020, the electric rates went down for approximately five months.” Mr. Kozikowski seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

**6. Miscellaneous**

None

**7. Adjournment**

At 5:33 p.m., Mr. Crowley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Deborah W. Reid  
Clerk of the Council