

ENERGY COMMITTEE
TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR

Minutes

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March 1, 2016

Madden Room – South Windsor Town Hall

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Larry Brown, Resident
Hank Cullinane, Resident
Mike Gantick, Director of Public Works
Deputy Mayor Carolyn Mirek, Town Council
Councilor Janice Snyder, Town Council
Richard Stahr, Board of Education
Sherman Tarr, Resident
Stephen Wagner, Resident

Members Absent: Richard Grigorian, Resident
Patrick Hankard, Board of Education
Councilor Edward Havens, Town Council
Athena Loukellis, Resident

3. Approval of Minutes (February 2, 2016)

Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the February 2, 2016 minutes. Mr. Cullinane seconded the motion; and they were approved, unanimously.

4. Next Meeting – April 5, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

5. Old Business

None

6. New Business

A. LED Streetlights update:

Mr. Gantick informed the Committee that Eversource will not allow the Town to base a first and second phase on the street lights on State roads. Phases can only be based on a geographical area. Mr. Gantick explained that the Town Attorney has been having verbal communications with the legal counsel from Eversource.

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ITEM:

6. A. (Continued)

Mr. Wagner felt that the Town should consider turning all of the street lights off. The Town is losing \$20,000 per month by not doing anything. The Town Attorney should be able to resolve the definition of geographical area.

After a lengthy discussion regarding the billing of street lights on State roads, Mr. Brown made a motion to recommend to the Town Council that the Town stop paying the portion of the utility bill which is associated with the street lights on State roads, the amount to be calculated by Town staff. Councilor Snyder seconded the motion; and it was approved, unanimously.

B. Municipal Action Plan Update

- a. Meeting with Eversource in March
- b. Latest Draft Reports
- c. Wapping School Support

Mr. Wagner stated he would report to the Town Council on how the Town is doing on the two clean energy commitments.

Mr. Wagner also informed the Committee that he has started to make recommended changes to the Municipal Action Plan.

A meeting was scheduled to discuss energy efficiency for the Wapping School with Steve Gibson from Eversource for Thursday, March 10th at 2:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Mr. Major and Mr. Favreau will be attending this meeting.

There is an opportunity to increase the incentive on the street lights if there is enough programs to build a comprehensive plan. The goal is to reduce the energy use by 20% and to use renewable energy. The ultimate goal is to reduce energy use.

7. Miscellaneous

Mr. Wagner stated that he went to a Clean Energy Task Force meeting on February 27th. Speakers Susan Eastwood from Ashford and Diane Lauricella from Norwalk talked about putting energy into the Plan of Conservation & Development. The Energy Committee could propose additions regarding energy efficiency to South Windsor's Plan of Conservation & Development if it is felt more is needed. Deputy Mayor Mirek suggested that the Energy Committee's goal be incorporated. Mr. Wagner stated that there is some mention of renewable energy but not a lot

ITEM:

7. Miscellaneous (Continued)

about efficiency. It should be recognized that new commercial and residential construction be encouraged to meet building codes in terms of energy efficiency. There are some cities that require if new construction of a big box building is being implemented, solar power be placed on top of the building. This item could be put onto future agenda's.

Mr. Wagner explained that another interesting concept that came out of the meeting was from Ms Daphne Dixon representing Wilton Go Green. They have been promoting a no-idling model. In the State of Connecticut you are not allowed to idle for more than three minutes. Committee members discussed the no-idling rule in regards to the school buses. Mr. Stahr said he would see whether the schools have the no idling rule.

Mr. Wagner explained that there is a campaign called "Let There Be Light International". This campaign is raising awareness of the use of solar lights that can be used in off-grid populations.

Mr. Wagner informed the Committee that the Solarize Connecticut program is now available to all Connecticut homeowners. Mr. Wagner explained how the program works.

Mr. Cullinane wondered if there is a way to get this information out to people who had previously looked at doing solar but did not. Mr. Wagner stated he thinks he still has the list. The information could be put on the Town's website and a workshop could be held.

Mr. Wager then told the Committee members that another item that was discussed at the Clean Energy Task Force meeting was the Legislative Agenda. Mr. Wagner explained how a C-PACE project would work.

Mr. Wagner reported that the Green Bank had been issuing renewable energy points based on how many solar installations there are in your Town, but this program has been stopped. On the other hand, the Home Energy Solutions previously did not allow a new audit if one had been done in the last five years. That has been changed to 18 months now because they are offering an energy score card which will help homeowners to compare their homes to others.

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ITEM:

7. Miscellaneous (Continued)

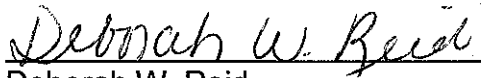
Mr. Cullinane informed the Committee that the State is processing new energy codes but it really only affects new construction.

Mr. Wagner stated that the utilities are trying hard to adjust the rates for solar installation claiming that they are not paying their fair share.

8. Adjournment

At 5:40 p.m. Mr. Brown 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