

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

**Minutes**

**Page 1**

**September 14, 2021**

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**1. Call Meeting to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:36 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  
                               James MacPherson, Resident  
                               Chairperson Stephen Wagner, Resident

Members Absent:     Larry Brown, Resident  
                               Councilor Cesar Lopez, Town Council  
                               Mayor Andrew Paterna, Town Council  
                               Councilor Janice Snyder, Town Council  
                               Sherman Tarr, Resident

**4. Next Meeting – October 12, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. in the Madden Room**

**5. Business**

**A.    Police Station Solar Canopies Update**

Chairperson Wagner informed the Commission that Jeff Doolittle had contacted Greenskies regarding installing solar canopies at the Police Department. Greenskies told Mr. Doolittle of the schedule for this project as follows:

- Civil Survey to be done by the end of September.
- Civil plan to be done by mid-October.
- A public hearing through the Planning & Zoning Commission will not be required. Several years ago, they were approved for solar canopies, and nothing ever happened, so a minor site plan change can be done without coming to the Commission. The minor site plan change will need approval from Town staff.

**(Continued on Next Page)**

**MINUTES**  
**Energy Committee Meeting**  
**Page 2**  
**September 14, 2021**

**ITEM:**

**5. A. (Continued)**

- There is no wetland issue so they will get the permits by mid-December
- The final drawings will be done in January.
- Construction will begin at the beginning of May.

There will be a design, and underground cables will be run before the parking lot is paved. A fence will be put around the whole area to better secure the police vehicles. This project will not make the Town any money, but it does give the police some shelter and increases the Town's renewable energy component.

Answering questions from the Commission, Mr. Wagner explained that the cables that carry the solar current into the building are adequate for running the EV.

Mr. Cullinane stated that the Town will have to look for incentives and feels there will be more incentives within the next two years.

**B. ARPA Funds for Energy Projects in South Windsor**

The Town received Federal Funding to do various projects that meet specific criteria. There are energy projects proposed, such as upgrading the HVAC system in Town Hall, upgrading the HVAC at Fire Headquarters, and replacing windows in Town Hall. The Town should see energy consumption in Town Hall improve after these projects are complete. The Water Pollution Control Authority will be meeting to decide how funds will best be spent to reduce electricity consumption.

**C. Energy related zoning options in recent legislation – PZC Request**

Chairperson Wagner explained that the State passed several energy-related laws, and one of the laws affects the zoning regulations. As you may remember, the Energy Committee helped draft zoning regulations to allow solar for both large and small projects. The Energy Committee recently issued zoning for electric vehicle charging and the requirements for electric vehicle charging. We are now allowed to require more measures in the solar area such as wind or combined heat and power.

**(Continued on Next Page)**

**MINUTES**  
**Energy Committee Meeting**  
**Page 3**  
**September 14, 2021**

**ITEM:**

**5. C. (Continued)**

Mr. Cullianane questioned if the Town could use the waste heat because the combined heat and power are based on your heating load. Chairperson Wagner stated that this is an area where we could require it or incentivize it, instead of just allowing it. Chairperson Wagner said he would like to know what the Commission's thoughts are.

Committee members discussed this item in length and decided that Chairperson Wagner would send out the zoning that would be reviewed, and solicit volunteers over email.

**D. Potential Municipal EVSE providers**  
**a. Potential speakers**

Chairperson Wagner informed the Committee that the new School Committee was wondering if the Energy Committee could get a company to install the EV chargers outside in their employee parking lot for free and get the revenue from the sale of the electricity.

Mr. Cullinane explained that he started research on EV manufacturers and feels the Committee should hold discussions with Juicebar and Greenspot. Mr. Cullinane felt that there would be money coming after the next legislative session and also thought that the Energy Committee should be prepared when the money becomes available.

Mr. Crowley explained further that the School Committee would like to see if the Energy Committee could find out if funding is available so funds could be saved on the construction project.

Chairperson Wagner suggested that a project be defined that includes the Town and Schools. Since the approval on the schools had electric vehicle chargers, the Planning & Zoning Commission could be approached to request that the infrastructure below the electric vehicle chargers be installed during construction. Then one year after the schools open, the electric vehicle chargers could be installed. Mr. Crowley felt that would be a good route to go and would not be breaking any regulations if

**(Continued on Next Page)**

**MINUTES**  
**Energy Committee Meeting**  
**Page 4**  
**September 14, 2021**

**ITEM:**

**5. D. (Continued)**

we can move the percentage of actual stations to a percentage of actual pre-wiring. If this is the direction the Energy Committee feels the project should proceed, he will pass that along.

Committee members discussed this idea and felt that the Committee could put a plan together to include the schools and the Town. This would enable the use of one company.

**E. Municipal Fleet**

Mr. MacPherson stated that he feels that in the discussion held, it was preferred at this time to monitor the Town's vehicle acquisition plan and look for Town vehicles that would best be suited for replacement with electric vehicles. Mr. MacPherson added that the overall maintenance for electric vehicles is very light.

Committee members discussed the ability for the Town and Board of Education employees to charge their vehicles, and having chargers available for public use. Mr. MacPherson explained that Glastonbury has several electric vehicles behind Town Hall. There are two charging stations for the public and various other charging stations that are marked for Town vehicles only. Chairperson Wagner requested that Mr. MacPherson talks to Glastonbury to see how they handled the electric vehicle charging for Town employees and the public.

Committee members then discussed having this Committee define the project, which would include understanding which vehicles will be replaced with electric vehicles, and the associated cost and hold discussions with suppliers. This will enable the Town to be prepared when ZREC comes out. It was decided that Mr. MacPherson, Mr. Doolittle, Mr. Crowley, and Chairperson Wagner would define the project.

**MINUTES**  
**Energy Committee Meeting**  
**Page 5**  
**September 14, 2021**

**ITEM:**

**5. New Business (Continued)**

F. Fire Department EV Options other than fire trucks

Mrs. Loukellis informed the Committee that she had sent Chief Cooney a note asking if there were any smaller vehicles that the Fire Department uses that are slated for replacement.

Chairperson Wagner requested that Mr. Cullinane continue to research suppliers.

G. LiveGreenCt update

Chairperson Wagner voiced disappointment with LiveGreen because they have not been helping the Town very much. The Energy Committee has not heard anything from Greenspot after they met with the Committee.

**6. Miscellaneous**

Chairperson Wagner stated that there is funding that PURA is trying to give the Town. That will be part of the Energy Committees' effort to take advantage of those incentives.

**7. Adjournment**

At 5:46 p.m., the Energy Committee meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Deborah W. Reid  
Clerk of the Council