

ENERGY COMMITTEE
TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR

Minutes

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December 14, 2021

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Larry Brown, Resident (left meeting at 5:04pm)
 Hank Cullinane, Resident
 Jeff Doolittle, Town Engineer
 Athena Loukellis, Resident
 James MacPherson, Resident
 Chairperson Stephen Wagner, Resident
 Marek Kozikowski, Town Council
 Mayor Andrew Paterna, Town Council

Members Absent:

Councilor Cesar Lopez, Town Council
Darrell Crowley, Board of Education
Sherman Tarr, Resident

3. Approval of Minutes (October 12, 2021)

Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the October 12, 2021 minutes. Ms. Loukellis seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. New Business

A. 2022 Meeting Schedule (Steve)

Mr. Wagner suggested to change the November 8, 2022 meeting to November 15, 2022 due November 8, 2022 being Election Day.

Mr. Kozikowski made a motion to amend the meeting schedule to change the November 8, 2022 meeting to November 15, 2022 due the 8th being Election Day and approve all other meeting dates as presented. Mr. Cullinane seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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Mr. Wagner requested consensus to add an item to the Agenda to discuss New Residential and Commercial Renewable Energy Solutions. The committee agreed.

- B. Potential Municipal EVSE Sites
 - a. Two quick options (Jeff)
 - b. School sites (Darrel)
 - c. Other municipal sites (Jeff)

Mr. Doolittle spoke about what the Town needs and what is available for municipal EVSE sites. The Town uses a lot of pickup trucks and there isn't a lot of electric vehicle pickup trucks available right now. Mr. Doolittle reviewed the different departments that might use an electric vehicle but doesn't feel that they types of vehicles currently being used by the departments would be compatible to an electric vehicle of the same type.

Mr. Wagner said that he spoke with the Town Manager and he had the idea of purchasing two electric vehicles to be connected to a charger at the Town Garage. Mr. Doolittle said that a charger could be installed at the Town Garage but isn't sure that a car would be a good use for the Town Garage as they use mostly pickup trucks. If someone at the Town Hall were to use that car, it would be inconvenient to have to bring it to the garage to be charged. Mr. Wagner agreed that it would only be beneficial to someone to use that works at the garage. Mr. Kozikowski said it would make sense to look into cars that are ready to be retired. It was also suggested to go with a hybrid vehicle as an alternative.

Mr. Wagner suggested that a good answer to the Town Manager is that they are not ready to do this as we are still evaluating who would be using the electric vehicles.

Mr. Wagner said he spoke with Mr. Crowley who said that they are installing electric vehicles at Pleasant Valley. They did not talk about long term options.

Reviewing the list of possible electric vehicle sites, (Exhibit A) Mr. Wagner asked how they would best determine which locations to send out for RFP (Request for Proposal). Mr. Doolittle suggested that the RFPs are for the Town Hall, Annex, Library, Community Center, Sewer, Treatment Plant and Town Garage.

There was questions about putting an EV charger at the Park and Ride Lots but because they are level 2 chargers which only take ten minutes to charge, there is concern that a person may charge their vehicle for much longer than that making it unavailable for use to others. Mr. Kozikowski asked if the EV chargers would be free or charged by use. Mr. Doolittle said that it depends on the vendor that

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they use. Limits may be set on the amount of time the vehicle charger may be used.

C. Solar PV and Battery Storage

- a. Timothy Edwards – solar plus battery (Darrel)
- b. Pleasant Valley – solar (Darrel)
- c. Sewer Plant – battery (Steve)
- d. Police Station update – including EVSE (Jeff)

Mr. Wagner said that they are proposing to add a battery storage facility at the Timothy Edwards and at the Sewer Treatment Plant. He said that they have three separate proposals for the schools which give the option of adding solar, battery or both. They will need work with the Planning Department and Board of Education to find a location. They estimate the savings for all three options will be the same on the electric bill. If they apply for the Connecticut State Incentive the lease payment goes up to \$15,000. This is not recommended. The Federal Government comes through with the Build Back Better Program they can increase the lease payment to \$25,000. The average is about \$50-\$70,000 in savings per year by placing all of the batteries at the schools.

D. Energy related zoning options in recent legislation - PZC Request

Mr. Wagner discussed drafting a letter to the Town Council to recommend incentives for putting solar on new buildings. They will work with Planning and Zoning to draft a letter to Town Council. The idea would be to require new buildings to be solar ready. Mr. Wagner feels it would be wrong to require them to install it since you have to apply and win the incentives in order to make it valuable financially. The legislation would give the Zoning Board of Appeals the ability to require buildings to be solar ready. The commission would need to work with the Town Attorney on this and then bring it to Town Council to approve the incentives and/or requirements if this is the route that is decided upon. After discussion by the commission, it was determined that incentivizing existing homes as well as new homes will bring a larger audience of people that would benefit from the incentives. Mr. Wagner will work with the commission to draft a policy.

E. New Residential and Commercial renewable Energy Solutions

Mr. Wagner presented slides from recent webinars to inform the committee about new tariffs going in to effect on January 1, 2022. Ms. Loukellis suggested inviting Jim Secord of Energy Sage to an upcoming meeting to assist the commission on

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promoting new options made available by the new tariffs in the commercial multi-family sectors

6. Adjournment

At 6:05 p.m., Mr. Kozikowski made a motion to adjourn the Energy Committee meeting. Mr. Paterna seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Senerth
Executive Assistant