

ENERGY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR

Minutes

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December 12, 2017

Madden Room – South Windsor Town Hall

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Hank Cullinane, Resident
Mike Gantick, Director of Public Works
Councilor Mary Justine Hockenberry, Town Council
Athena Loukellis, Resident
Sherman Tarr, Resident
Stephen Wagner, Resident

Members Absent: Larry Brown, Resident
Councilor Jeffrey Glickman, Town Council
Patrick Hankard, Board of Education
Councilor Janice Snyder, Town Council
Richard Stahr, Board of Education

Others Present: Robert Dickinson, Resident
Anitha Elango, Town Treasurer

3. Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Loukellis made a motion to approve the minutes from September 19, 2017, October 17, 2017, and November 21, 2017. Mr. Tarr seconded the motion; and it was approved, unanimously.

4. Next Meeting

The next Energy Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 9, 2018, at 4:30 p.m. in the Madden Room

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ITEM:

5. Business

A. 2018 Meeting Scheduled

Mr. Tarr made a motion to approve the amended 2018 meeting schedule. Mr. Cullinane seconded the motion; and it was approved, unanimously.

The amendment consisted of changing December 18, 2018 to December 11, 2018.

B. Bright Idea Grant

Mr. Gantick informed the Committee that it is being proposed to replace nine outside light fixtures at the Library which would make the campus lighting consistent with the EOC/Town Hall Annex and Town Hall. All of the areas would have high efficiency LED lighting.

Mr. Cullinane made a motion to endorse the Bright Ideas Grant use as proposed by Mr. Gantick and proposed in attached **Exhibit A**. Mrs. Loukellis seconded the motion; and it was approved, unanimously.

C. Zoning Changes Regarding Solar Height Limits (Steve)

a. Approval by Planning & Zoning

Mr. Wagner explained that the necessary changes for the solar height limits had been made to the regulations. By special exception, solar equipment can be above 12 feet high in certain locations.

Answering questions from Councilor Hockenberry, Mr. Wagner explained that there are no requirements placed on new buildings to make sure there is solar consideration. Mr. Cullinane stated that there are programs available that give incentives that will drop expenses.

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5. Business (Continued)

D. Energize South Windsor Update (Athena, Hank, and Larry)

a. Update.

Mrs. Loukellis reported that in September there were 43 home energy evaluations done with three being income eligible. In October there were 28 evaluations done and in November 26 evaluations were done.

Mrs. Loukellis stated that it was recommended that no workshops be scheduled from the second week in December until next year. The program can continue in January and run through the year. All of the press releases have been updated with a deadline in April. It can be extended to the end of the year at the rate of \$149.00. Eversource will continue with the \$25.00 incentive to the Food and Fuel Bank for every evaluation that is complete.

Chairman Wagner requested that Athena go to the next Town Council to report on Energize South Windsor and also mention the Bright Ideas Grant.

E. Solar on Town Facilities

- a. Update on Orchard Hill RFP discussion with BOE*
- b. Information on ZRECs, etc.*

Chairman Wagner stated that there is a letter from Pat Hankard in the packet. The letter stated that at this time it is unlikely that the school district would benefit from a financial savings through the use of solar because of the substantial up-front effort and unknown evaluation costs.

Chairman Wagner then explained that the Committee had discussed a solar carport at the Police Department. The carport might not benefit the Police Department financially, but would benefit the Police Department with coverage for their vehicles.

(Discussion Continued on Next Page)

ITEM:

5. E. (Continued)

Mr. Gantick felt that there are great advantages to the Police Department and is something that would need to be discussed with them. Chairman Wagner stated that the project could be done through a Power Purchase Agreement, making payment through the electric bill rather than a lease.

Committee members discussed the costs associated with this project as well as the benefits. Chairman Wagner suggested that the Committee reach out to Lodestar to get their opinion regarding costs for solar at Town facilities.

F. Small Business Outreach Effort

a. Discussion on whether to select and sponsor a vendor

Chairman Wagner explained that the Committee had representatives from Earthlight Technologies out of Ellington present a program where they would reach out to small businesses for various energy improvements to their facilities. The Energy Committee briefly discussed how to fairly make it possible for the town to endorse one or more businesses to provide this service. Should the town conduct interviews and select one company to provide the service or should the town take any company that qualifies and endorse all of the companies. Committee members discussed this briefly and decided it would be better to keep this item on the agenda for further discussions.

G. Virtual Net Metering Update

a. Report on Ribbon cutting

b. Status

Chairman Wagner explained that a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the Virtual Net Metering project in East Windsor. The Town will have to decide if changes are necessary to accounts that should be credited. Chairman Wagner explained the program and stated this project would produce a savings of one million dollars over twenty years. This will benefit all Town-owned buildings except for school buildings.

ITEM:

5. Business (Continued)

H. Food Waste Processing by Anaerobic Digester and Controlled Environment Agriculture

- a. *Energy Committee role*
- b. *Possible partnership with SWALPAC*

Mrs. Anitha Elango from the South Windsor Alliance explained that South Windsor Alliance had taken a tour of the Anaerobic Digester facility in Southington, Connecticut. South Windsor is interested in having a facility close to I-291 that would be for the sludge from the Pollution Plant, farm waste and food waste.

Mrs. Elango explained that one idea was to use the electricity for controlled agriculture plan which is where plants are grown indoors. This could generate heat and water. Chairman Wagner stated that having these two facilities next to each other would be ideal.

Chairman Wagner asked if anyone would be interested in taking a tour of the facility in Southington. Chairman Wagner then requested that Mrs. Elango find out if the Energy Committee's role would be just to promote this project or if there is anything else.

Mr. Gantick explained to the Committee about the Textile Recycling program that the Town is involved in. There is a collection box at the Community Center where clothing, that is not good enough for donations, is placed. The Town gets paid by the pounds collected.

6. Miscellaneous

Chairman Wagner explained that the Town granted a tax fixing agreement for the fuel cell. Doosan will be the supplier of the fuel cell on the Mestek property, and the existing building will be used for the studio where items will be stored.

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6. Miscellaneous (Continued)

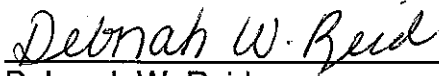
Chairman Wagner brought to the attention of the Committee a printed spread sheet to qualify for an energy star rating. Mr. Wagner reviewed the process that would need to be taken to apply for an energy star rating. The Energy Committee will have one year to work on this application if the Energy Committee so chooses. Application and supporting data would need to be reviewed by a Professional Engineer.

Mr. Cullinane stated he would research if there are any energy star buildings locally.

7. Adjournment

At 6:10 p.m. Mr. Cullinane made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Tarr seconded the motion; and it was approved, unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Deborah W. Reid
Clerk of the Council

Memorandum

To: Michael Gantick, Director of Public Works

CC: File

From: Clay Major, Facilities Manager *CM*

Date: 12/11/2017

Re: Bright Ideas Grant Use

In 2010 a town-wide lighting upgrade was completed replacing Fluorescent lighting with Induction style lighting. The parking lot lights were also replaced at that time. The 440-Watt High Intensity Discharge (HID) parking lot fixtures were replaced with 200-Watt Induction style fixtures. Unfortunately, the Induction lighting technology failed prematurely resulting in repetitive lighting outages at many sites. We were forced to upgrade to LED lighting as funds became available; last year all of the lighting at the Town Garage in addition to the walkway lights between the Town Hall and Library were replaced.

The Town Hall lot lights are scheduled to be replaced in the next couple of weeks, it would be ideal if both sites were upgraded at the same time. The Bright Ideas grant would be used to replace nine fixtures at the Library making the campus lighting consisting of the Annex, Library and Town Hall all high efficiency LED lighting.

The reduction in wattage from Induction to LED is significant. The current fixtures draw 200-Watts and the new LED fixtures draw 85-Watts.

Thank you for your consideration and please let me know if you would like additional information.