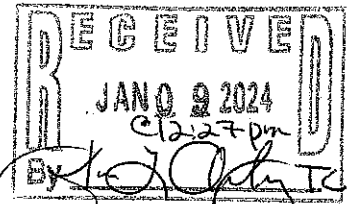


TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR
ENERGY COMMITTEE
MINUTES



December 12, 2023
4:30pm

Town Hall, Madden Room
Madden Room

1) Call Meeting to Order

Stephen Wagner called the meeting to order at 4:34pm. At this point the committee has not yet established a chair. Mr. Wagner volunteered to run the meeting until the committee decides to vote on a chairperson.

2) Roll Call

Members present: Darrell Crowley, Director of Facility Operations for SW schools
 Stephen Lewis, resident
 Stephen Wagner, resident
 Michael Buganski, Town Council
 James MacPherson, resident
 Jared Lewis, resident
 Michele Althoff, resident
 Hank Cullinane, resident
 Jeffrey Doolittle, Assistant Director of Public Works/Town Engineer
 Carolyn Carey, Town Council

Members not present: Elizabeth Pendleton, Town Council
 Vijay Srinivasachari, resident

3) Election of Officers

Mr. Wagner gives a brief history of the Energy Committee. This is a sub-committee of the Town Council and the creation of this committee is spelled out in the council rules and procedures. The committee has a chair and vice chair. Mr. Wagner opens the floor for nominations.

Discussion reveals that past practice, named council members as the chair and vice chair of the committee. Mr. Crowley made a motion to nominate Carolyn Carey as the Chair of the Energy Committee and Michael Buganski as the Vice Chair of the Energy Committee. Mr. Cullinane seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote. **MOTION CARRIES.**

Mr. Doolittle makes a motion to close the nomination. Mr. MacPherson seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote. **MOTION CARRIES.**

4) Approval of minutes from October 23, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Doolittle makes a motion to approve the minutes of the October 23rd, special meeting. Mr. Stephen Lewis seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote. **MOTION CARRIES.**

5) Next Meeting /Regular Meeting – date TBD Madden Room, 4.30pm

a) Vote on calendar for 2024 regular meetings

Mr. Crowley made a motion to approve the 2024 regular meeting calendar. Mr. Cullinane seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote. **MOTION CARRIES.**

A copy of the Energy Committee's 2024 regular meeting schedule is filed in the Town Clerk's Office. The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 9, 2024.**

6) Project Updates

a. Timothy Edwards – solar plus battery (Crowley)

Mr. Crowley reports that there have been some changes with the solar programs. Connecticut Light and Power continues to change parameters for the solar batteries. Last year, the Town was looking to place a back up solar plus battery system. The Town was advised by attorneys to not proceed with that plan. Schools are looking into non-residential renewable energy solution projects through Connecticut Light and Power.

Some projects have gone out for bidding at Pleasant Valley and the High School for solar energy initiatives. There are some solar projects over at Timothy Edwards Middle School that are being reviewed for contract. Pleasant Valley did not receive credits for solar at this time.

Mr. Wagner suggests that this item be removed from future agendas, this matter is considered closed.

b. Pleasant Valley – solar (Crowley)

There will be no more updates, this matter is considered closed. Mr. Crowley will have more updates on the high school and high school annex solar initiative as it moves forward. Mr. Crowley explains that the schools have purchasing agreements with solar farms in other towns.

Mr. Wagner briefly explained the three virtual no metering projects, also known as large solar installations in others Town.

Mr. Crowley explains that there are some projects that need have not yet been completed due to the lack of infrastructure.

c. Sewer Plant EV purchase/update – (Macpherson/ Wagner)

Mr. Wagner reported that a hybrid, Hyundai Santa Fe was purchased and delivered. This matter is considered closed and should be removed from future agenda. There is an internal charging station at the treatment facility, it is not available to the public due to its location.

d. Update on Town Buildings/Energy Use (Steve Wagner)

No update at this time. Mr. Wagner suggests removing this from the agenda.

e. Town Council Update:

No update at this time.

f. EV Charging Stations Report/ (Doolittle, MacPherson)

Mr. Doolittle received 2 different proposals for EV chargers, with the intention of using grants from Eversource. The grant would only cover a portion of the cost.

Presentation and discussion revealed that after looking at the cost, zoning requirements and accessibility, the best location for an EV charger would be at the library.

Councilor Carey stated that this project should be brought forward to the council for approval and funding.

Mr. MacPherson made it clear that this would be a level 2 charge, or a mid-level charger. A level 3 charger would cost the Town close to six figures. Level 3 chargers are for users that are driving long distances on a regular basis and require a fast charge. This level two charger is meant to be slower and for every day, typical use.

g. Zoning Updates: (Wagner)

Mr. Wagner recalled that about 2 years ago the committee drafted some zoning regulations requiring EV chargers. That language has been shared with the Planning & Zoning Commission, which will then be shared with the Capital Region Council of Government (CROCG). More updates to come.

B. Renewable Energy and Battery Storage Sub-Committee (Hank Cullinane)

Mr. Cullinane provided some updates on Codes and Standards at the State level. 2021 codes were just adopted in October of 2023. Homeowners either have the R2-2 or the 410A air conditioning system. 410A is being phased out, meaning new developments, facilities, buildings etc. will be required to use a newer system. This change will go into effect on December 31, 2024.

a. Updates/ *Economic Development-Local Business*

No update.

C. Electric Vehicle Sub-Committee /including EV Charging stations (Jim MacPherson and Jeff Doolittle)

Mr. Doolittle explained that the Town is looking to get more electric vehicles in the fleet. There are limited opportunities, as these vehicles are specialized and have very specific uses.

The police department had looked into more electric vehicles and purchased a few. As of right now, there is not a lot of positive feedback. As the vehicles have required more attention than a traditional combustion engine vehicle, in their experience.

D. Outreach Sub-Committee (Cullinane)

No update at this time.

E. State and National Energy Update (Steve Wagner) Federal money available in new Green Energy Initiatives?

Mr. Wagner opened the discussion with electric school buses. The batteries on the school buses can be used vehicle to grid. Utilities can use the electricity in the batteries instead of using a gas or coal plant. It can be used to manage the grin load and get paid for that use of the battery.

7) Adjournment

Mr. Crowley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:43pm. Mr. Cullinane seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote. **MOTION CARRIES.**

Energy Committee Members:

Michael Buganski (Town Council), Carolyn Carey (Town Council), Darrell Crowley (Director-Facility Operations-SW Schools), Hank Cullinane (Resident), Jeff Doolittle (Town Engineer-Public Works), James MacPherson (Resident), Stephen Wagner (Resident), Stephen Lewis (Resident), Jared Lewis (Resident), Elizabeth Pendleton (Town Council), Vijay Srinivasachari (Resident), Michele Althoff (resident)