

ENERGY COMMISSION

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

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Richard Creeth
Co-Chairman
Debra Thompson-Van
Co-Chairman
Peter Wrampe
Vice Chairman
Bruce Hampson
Gil Bray
Patrice Gillespie
Christina Lampe-Onnerud
Glenn Hemmerle

WILTON ENERGY COMMISSION
Meeting, Wednesday January 27th, 2016
Library, Presidents Room
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Minutes

Members Present: Debra Thompson-Van, Richard Creeth, Peter Wrampe , Patrice Gillespie, Glenn Hemmerle, Bruce Hampson, Christina Lamps-Onnerud

Members Absent : Gil Bray, Chris Burney (Guest)

Guests : Jana Bertkau

1. Richard Creeth called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm
2. Bruce Hampson moved and Glenn Hemmerle seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the December 16 , 2015 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.
3. Solarize Wilton Plan : Update & Status : Debra Thompson-Van
 - a. Debra reported an impressively robust start to the Solarize program. 123 homeowners have made enquiries so far. 19 contracts have been presented and 6 contracts have been signed. 27 homes are unqualified, primarily due to shade from trees or other issues.
 - b. There was discussion about further presentations at the YMCA, The Schools, and other locations. Also it was agreed that Richard would help Tom (from Ross Solar) and Debra rotate the signs every two weeks.
4. WGG update Jana Bertkau
 - a. The next WGG/WLA Green Speaker will be Jeff Howard. The topic is Climate Change 101. It will be held Wednesday, February 10 at 7pm at the Wilton Library.
 - b. The No Idle Program got off to a great start. 75 metal signs were placed around town. The film Idle Threat was screened followed by a panel

discussion at the library. Some teachers developed curriculum and over 200 residents signed a No Idle Pledge. Sustainable America partnered with us in this effort.

- c. WGG held its annual meeting and dinner at Marly's, celebrated its 5th anniversary and gave out awards for Green Teacher (Heather Priest), Green Graphic Designer (Willa Ratner) and Energizer Bunny Award for her work on the No Idle program (Eve Silverman).
 - d. The HES. (Home Energy Solutions Program) has lost one of the three vendors. The program continues with some discussion about how to integrate this with the Solarize Program.
 - e. The WGG festival will be held on May 1, 2015. A Tiny House will be a new feature.
5. Facilities report
 - a. No facilities report due to Chris's absence.
 6. Energy Commission Website
 - a. Peter reported that the Web site is up to date on content and asked the Commission to keep sending him updated materials.
 7. EPA Benchmarking Status
 - a. Richard presented a benchmarking report (attached) to show how the Town is faring in its Clean Energy Community (CEC) commitment goals. The report focused on the schools since they represent more than 80% of the Town's energy usage. The commission noted the healthy downward trend in 2010, 2011 and 2012, but also noted the increase in 2013 and 2014 due to harsher winters (as measured in degree days). Bruce and Richard are to follow up to see if our CEC commitments are weather normalized or not.
 8. Goals and initiatives for 2016
 - a. There was a wide ranging discussion around the goals and initiatives for the Commission in 2016 (see attachment).
 9. Other business
 10. Meeting adjourned at 9:01pm.

Wilton Energy Commission
Goals and Initiatives for 2016

- Ongoing Initiatives
 - Benchmarking
 - Portfolio Manager
 - Monitoring conformance with the CEC commitments
 - Identifying additional energy saving opportunities
 - Other benchmarking tools
 - Encouraging conservation and efficiency through regular performance and comparison reporting
 - Bright Ideas Grant \$14,500 to be used (hopefully) to fund, at least in part LED lighting at Town Hall. This could also be part of the implementation of some of the suggestions in the recent ASHRAE audit of Town hall.
 - Web Site. This is an important, ongoing, part of our communications strategy.
 - Solarize. This initiative is going well. We need to make sure we are alert to future programs such as this that we can exploit.
 - HES (Home Energy Solutions). This has become primarily a WGG initiative. The consensus seemed to be that we should continue to keep this program publicized since it is of great value in providing homeowners with ways to save energy and most Wiltonians (79%) have not yet undertaken a Home Energy Assessment.
- Membership.
 - Some members felt that it is important to expand our membership beyond our current 8 so that we can properly service initiatives. We are authorized to have as many as 11 members. Concern was also expressed that we should focus on a small number of initiatives and execute them really well. The consensus seems to be that we should continue to look for new members with appropriate skills, but we should also focus our efforts.
 - Continuing to publicize the Commission's work and achievements to date may help us attract new members.
- Liaison
 - State
 - Continue to liaise with DEEP, EPA, Green Bank etc. to ensure we are fully exploiting all available State and Federal programs such as CPace, Solarize etc.
 - BoS
 - Liaise with the BoS to ensure that the initiatives that we are pursuing are aligned with the goals of the BoS.
 - Ensure that our mission statement stays current and does not need revision
 - Provide services to Town departments (via the First selectman) to advise on purchasing energy efficient equipment such as hybrid or electric vehicles.

- GoGreen
 - Continue to nurture a strong relationship with GoGreen who do, among many other things, such a good job of the “retail” marketing and selling of WEC initiatives. Provide whatever support we can for WGG initiatives such as the No-Idle campaign.
- Wilton Economic Development Commission
 - The goals of WEC overlap somewhat with those of the WEDC. Branding Wilton as a Green, energy efficient community is an important part of the overall brand. WEC should work closely with the WEDC to maximize this branding.