

**Wilton Energy Commission**  
Meeting Minutes for September 25, 2008

**Attendance:**

*Commission Members Present:* Mike Lindberg, Rust Muirhead, Mitch Reichgut, Ron Cagenello, Ron French, Bruce Hampson

*Absent:* Jim Furnivall, Richard Creeth

*Also Present:* Hal Clark (Board of Selectmen), Patrice Gillespie (Conservation Commission), Joe McGee (Fairfield County Business Council), Robin Stein (Stamford Land Use Bureau Chief)

**Meeting:**

- Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Mike Lindberg
- Ron Cagenello moved to accept the minutes of August 21, 2008, seconded by Mitch Reichgut. Motion passed 6 to 0.
- Rust Muirhead introduced Joe McGee, Vice President of Public Policy & Programs at the Fairfield County Business Council (FCBC). Joe shared his thoughts on a number of topics including:
  - The retro-commissioning project initiated by the FCBC in which 18 million of the 42 million square feet of FCBC members has had energy efficient system upgrades.
  - A new “retro-commissioning light” program available to smaller businesses.
  - FCBC legislative and regulatory initiatives including better time-of-day rate incentives, consolidation of CT energy conservation efforts, and increasing energy supplies in the state.
- Bruce Hampson introduced Robin Stein, Stamford Land Use Bureau Chief. Robin provided insights on how Stamford developed their comprehensive energy conservation plan and information on various initiatives they are undertaking:
  - In 1998 they hired an energy engineer with federal grant money. The engineer continues on their staff.
  - They engaged the services of an ESCO to achieve \$6M of energy savings.
  - They joined ICLEI’s Cities for Climate Protection in 2003 and encouraged Wilton to the same since the resources and information received are well worth the membership fee.
  - They completed the ICLEI benchmarking baseline survey and have developed corresponding forecasts.
  - They have not yet implemented a system to monitor the results and use them as a management tool.
  - They have begun a pilot project to convert sewage sludge to energy.
  - Prior to the state mandate their P&Z department pushed through a requirement that all municipal buildings must be LEED Silver.

- They do not have LEED requirements for their commercial buildings, although they have looked at using discounted building permit costs as incentives.
- If the resources were available for a staff position, he believes the permitting process could be a way to encourage energy conservation.
- Tax relief for hybrid vehicles was rejected by the town.
- They have not implemented any property tax relief for renewable energy installations
- They are not using biofuel for their fleet.
- Conservation Committee Report- Rust Muirhead
  - The Clean Energy Community web site reports 176 signups (3.2% of households) in Wilton as of September 25th, reflecting a decrease of 2 from last month.
    - Mike said that Sterling Planet has agreed to provide a monthly list of Wilton signups. Sterling Planet will also provide rebates to sponsoring organizations.
  - Rust and Bruce continue to scrub the data used for the benchmarking project. Square footage needs to be validated and the oil costs for some buildings need to be included.
- Building Committee Report – Bruce Hampson
  - WHS
    - Bond issue, \$20,300,00 approved by voters: 913 to 439
    - Design and construction drawings will be completed by mid-November
    - Will submit plans and specifications to CL&P to explore incentive funding for higher efficiency equipment.
    - Construction to begin March 2009 and continue for 10 months.
  - Comstock
    - Request for Qualifications have been sent to selected Architects.
      - Due October 6, 2008
      - Target LEED Gold certification ( If economically reasonable and feasible and costs do not exceed benefits )
      - Integrated design team: A&E
      - Computer modeling of Architectural and engineering design options for thermal and energy efficiencies.
  - Attended AIA “Green Goals for Buildings” Seminar
    - New Haven, September 17, 2008
    - CT Building Code Revision Sec.29-256a
      - Effective Jan 1, 2009: Any building (except residential of less than four units) costing not less than \$5,000,000 shall use construction standards consistent with or exceeding LEED Silver.
      - Effective Jan 1, 2009 : Renovation to any building, except residential of less than four units, costing more than \$2,000,000 shall use construction standards consistent with or exceeding LEED Silver.

- Huge question is how to comply with LEED when only a single element (eg roof) is involved.
- This includes all buildings: Public, School and Private.
- Does not have to be “certified” (Unfunded mandate)
- Exemptions can be provided if Institute for Sustainable Energy finds that cost outweighs benefits.
  - The institute has not been funded for this nor do they have the resources for it.

▪ **SOLAR LEASING FOR HOMEOWNERS**

- CT Clean Energy Fund
- \$0 Down Payment, 15 year Lease.
- Less than \$120 / month for typical 5kW system
- Income limits : 150% of Area Median Income
  - For Wilton / # of people in family home
 

1 person	\$123,000
2 person	\$141,000
3 person	\$159,000
4 person	\$ 176,700
  - Ron French pointed out that the program depends on the extension of the investment tax credit beyond 12/31/08. Also credit guidelines will preclude a number of people who fall below a certain income level.

● **LEGISLATIVE BILLS**

Passed:

- HB 5600 CT Global Warming Solutions
  - Limits carbon emissions in CT at 10% below 1990 levels by 2020., 80% below by 2050,

Not passed:

- HB 5798 An act establishing a tax credit for green buildings
- SB 123 An Act prohibiting the idling of motor vehicles

▪ **Communications Report – Mitch Reichgut**

- Town Contest: First meeting has been held with the 3 towns: Wilton, Weston, Westport. Marge Kelly from CL&P will be one of the judges. More contest rules and details to follow.
- Community outreach meetings: Meetings held with League of Women Voters and Kiwanis Club. Boy Scouts have not been responsive.

▪ **Upcoming Events**

- There are three upcoming events that can be used to communicate information to the community: Hazardous Waste Collection (10/25), WLA CFL Sale (10/22), and the annual Halloween Parade (TBD).

- Ron Cagenello has obtained a brochure re: energy conservation tips. It costs .60 per piece. Mike will check with Joe Dolan for approval.
  - Ron Cagenello will coordinate the printing of the brochures and obtaining Clean Energy Signup forms. He will also coordinate the Halloween Parade booth.
- Wilton Community Winterization Project
  - Kiwanis Club to identify 10 to 12 homes and estimated labor needs.
- iPark Tour to take place on 9/27
- Solar Energy Tour – 10/24
  - A national event with 45 homes in CT being toured including Mike Lindberg's.
- Next Meeting Scheduled for October 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Rust Muirhead