

DRAFT

Wilton Energy Commission Meeting Minutes for February 4, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by chair Dona Pratt. Members present were: Richard Creeth, Bruce Hampson, Hal Clark, Ron Cagenello, Patrice Gillespie, Paula Byrdy. Advisor Jana Bertkau was also present. Non-members present were Neil Gluckin, Shwetha Raghuraman and Katie Jacobs from the High School, and visitor Wendy Woolf.

Agenda items:

1. Call to order, review minutes of last WEC meeting

Bruce Hampson moved to approve the minutes of January 7, 2010. Hal Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote

2. Chairman Report

LEED core concepts course – Dona summarized the one day course, stating that LEED is not a code, but a combination of opportunities toward a goal. She and Bruce stressed that it is not only about energy conservation, but more holistic including site, materials, methods etc. Her takeaway is that people want visible solutions but the building envelope (invisible) is most important to the LEED standard. She initiated a brainstorm about how we could recognize those who have put in the effort to attain LEED standard, such as presenting a badge or keeping a certificate on file in the town to help with resale, or putting people's names on a website (for this and/or clean energy signups).

3. Student project discussion – Shwetha

Shwetha suggested directing the “Green world” competition at Cider Mill in the hopes of securing more participation. Neil, whose idea this was originally, said the concept was intended to be broad, for example “in a low carbon world what does Nascar look like”? Sports? Rock and Roll? etc. and that such a broadening would involve the other age groups. Dona said that there may be an art project in this vein at the HS initiated by art teacher Mrs. Hurd. Shwetha was going to follow-up with her to get more details. It was reiterated that this should be interdisciplinary, attracting interest from science, art, and the humanities.

4. 2010 Go Green Festival – Jana and Neil

This agenda item actually occurred first in the meeting, to make sure we had enough time for questions and because we had guest Neil Gluckin doing the presentation. Neil is an experienced marketing communications professional who is helping with the festival organization. He gave a PowerPoint presentation summarized here. He pointed out that the festival will provide an excellent opportunity to introduce the Energy Commission to the town (it was generally agreed that we lack visibility though we've certainly been in the news). An overriding theme of the presentation was to present the “brand” of the festival, its purpose and goals. Neil expressed the purpose of the festival as generating awareness of cost saving opportunities for more sustainable living in five categories. It is important that the festival not be about the peril of global warming, but an engaging

vision of the future, “inspiring” behavioral changes that make a difference. It will be interactive, it should come across as a beginning not an end, there will be 500-800 participants (estimated), 75-80 exhibitors and a keynote speaker. One goal for the day will be to obtain as many clean energy signups as possible, potentially with the help of Little People Big Changes (Ron agreed to initiate contact with them through Mitch Reichgut, former commissioner and father of one of the founders).

We discussed the budget and questioned the distribution of profits, specifically Richard asked why the energy assistance fund would benefit, Paula agreed and Dona pointed out that that language was in there from an earlier vision and should have been removed. The consensus was that any profits would comprise a discretionary fund to benefit the commission’s activities going forward.

Patrice mentioned inviting other towns to participate; we could provide booths from which they can present their programs. Neil wants to be sure that any materials that are used for publicity (by us and any other town) are provided by the commission in order to control the festival brand. Rain concerns and tent costs were also brought up but the contingency plan that Jana outlined is very thorough and has addressed every eventuality. Bruce summed up this agenda item by congratulating Jana and her team for an incredible effort; sentiments that were echoed by the group.

WEC booth – we discussed a few options including information about rebates (but that would be in the CL&P booth), challenges to other towns initiated from our booth (e.g. # of clean energy signups?). Neil points out that this is an opportunity to raise our profile.

5. Brief reports – Bruce, Patrice, Paula

CCEF workshop – Patrice said that 20 towns were represented at this meeting. Some of the things that came out of it include mention of Cornwall, CT a town that has managed to get 30% participation in clean energy sign-ups, the fact that more is spent on “vampire power” (power consumed by devices when they are turned off/in standby mode) for TVs than for electricity used when they are on! There is a website ctenergyinfo.com that contains links to alternate suppliers that are less expensive than CL&P (also mentioned by Bruce below).

ARRA grant – Bruce said that \$76k was approved by CT, now in review by the Feds, needs environmental impact statement?

CL&P rate seminar – Bruce provided a printout of notes and went through them. Highlights include rate stability through 2012, it’s a good time to contract an alternative supplier, which could save 7.5% on your bill in total, and the important point that efficiency and conservation make up the “third and least expensive fuel”.

WHS PV update – Bruce told us that Ron French’s 15kw donated array and the 5kw array from the clean energy fund will be installed on the HS roof.

6. New Business

Bruce read an email from Roger Smith campaign director for Clean Water action regarding the Governor's proposal to securitize at least 37% of the CT Energy Efficiency Fund and CT Clean Energy Fund to balance the state budget. Bruce made a motion to "strongly censure the state Government's move to cut by 37% the clean energy program funding" which was unanimously passed. Bruce and Neil drafted a letter which Dona subsequently edited and submitted to the local papers, Patch and sent to state representatives.

7. Future meeting schedule

Next meeting will be held on March 4, 2010.

8. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10PM.

Submitted by Ron Cagenello