

## **DRAFT**

### Wilton Energy Commission Meeting Minutes for March 4, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by chair Dona Pratt. Members present were: Bruce Hampson, Hal Clark, Patrice Gillespie, Paula Byrdy. Gail Lavielle joined us at 8:45. Non-members present were Becky Bunnell, Neil Gluckin, Karen Birck, Debbie Hunsberger, Shwetha Raghuraman and Katie Jacobs from the High School, and visitor Vicci Prinsloo.

Agenda items:

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

Bruce Hampson moved to approve the minutes of February 4, 2010. Hal Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote

#### **2. Wilton Go Green Festival – Becky and Neil**

Becky presented an update on the Festival progress and the current sponsorship forecast. The committee has reached the low number for the required sponsorships and is working toward the ideal number. The latest new sponsor is Deloitte, who is donating \$1000 and reusable water bottles and is contributing an activity – What is your Carbon Footprint? It was suggested that Neil's PowerPoint presentation be used on an ongoing basis. Debbie Hunsberger was introduced as the Day of Event Coordinator and asked Commissioners to sign up for at least one two-hour shift at the Festival. We discussed the rain plan, and it was suggested that we contact the owners of vacant space near the library if we need more indoor space. We discussed the Green Pledge which will be part of the WEC booth. If a family or business signs up to make at least three changes to their behavior, one being Clean Energy Option Signup, their house will be turned green on a Google Map displayed on a large screen at the WEC booth. We need students to help man the booth and encourage the pledge. Everything is going well with the Festival, and Becky and Jana were commended for their efforts to date.

#### **3. Guest – Vicci Prinsloo**

We juggled items on the agenda to accommodate members with conflicting meetings. Patrice introduced Vicci, who is an Environmental Scientist living in Westchester County. Vicci has offered to help the Commission and Town by volunteering her time to conduct a Greenhouse Gas Inventory. It was suggested that if Vicci conducts the inventory, she be introduced to everyone at Town Hall through BOS endorsement of the project. We talked briefly about the ICLEI inventory, which will be discussed at a future meeting.

#### **4. Very Brief Reports**

- Yankee Gas – Hal Clark gave an update: the next step is to have a meeting between Hal, Richard, Dona and Yankee Gas to see if Yankee Gas has an interest in proceeding before bringing in other stakeholders i.e. Town government and building owners.

- ARRA Grant – Bruce Hampson discussed the status. The grant has been received and discussions are taking place between Bruce and Dona and representatives from Town Hall: Sandy Dennies, Rich McArdle, Bob Nerney, Sarah Taffel. The objective is to have a contact who will supervise the energy consultative funded by the grant and to establish a reporting structure. Procedures for grant reporting also need to be established
- Ct Clean Energy Fund 2009 Annual Report (re: Wilton) – Bruce reviewed the Report, specifically that between CCEF and CEEF, the town has received over \$450,000 in rebates and other benefits over the last two+ years. It was reiterated that it is important that these funding sources continue to be allowed to disperse 100% of their funds and not be securitized for the state's deficit problem.
- Norwalk River Valley Trail – Gail Lavielle presented the status, which is awaiting the potential \$180,000 grant award. Marketing outreach has begun with planned press releases, marketing materials and a website. Support is present from Norwalk, Wilton, Redding, Ridgefield and awaiting Danbury's support.

#### **5. New business**

Gail listed several bills that have been introduced at the state legislature. She offered to keep WEC apprised of relevant legislation and asked how the Commission would like to respond or be involved as new items come up. Discussion followed; Gail will continue to keep WEC informed as to relevant legislation.

#### **4. Future meeting schedule**

Next meeting will be held on April 1, 2010 (later changed to April 14,2010).

#### **5. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:14PM.

Submitted by Dona Pratt