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WILTON ENERGY COMMISSION

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

WILTON ENERGY COMMISSION

MAY 26, 2011

MINUTES

Call to order at 7:10 pm

Commission Members Present: Paula Byrdy, Richard Creeth, Patrice Gillespie, Bruce Hampson, Mike Lindberg, Dona Pratt

Commission Members Absent: Karen Birck, Hal Clark, Paul Mazarulli

1. Membership Terms of Office

Records provided by Jan Andres show that the following members are eligible for reappointment: Hal Clark, Bruce Hampson and Dona Pratt. Their names will be submitted to the Board of Selectmen for a vote to confirm them as members of WEC.

Terms of office for other members expire as follows:

November 20, 2011 - Paul Mazarulli

November 30, 2011 - Karen Birck, Richard Creeth, Mike Lindberg

November 30, 2012 - Paula Byrdy, Patrice Gillespie

2. Proposed Organization Chart, Core Areas and Membership Criteria

Bruce Hampson proposed outlines for Organization of the Energy Commission, Core Areas of Engagement and Membership Criteria. These were approved after discussion and some minor changes.

- **Organization Chart**

Chair - Bruce Hampson was elected as Chair of the Energy Commission

Vice Chair - Paula Byrdy was elected as Vice Chair

Four committees were defined: Communication, Transportation, Buildings/Energy, and Outreach. Heads of each of these committees, chosen from the membership, will be appointed.

- **Core Areas of Engagement**

Several focus areas were described, covering the Energy Commission's mission to provide advice on energy matters to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education, as well as to the residential and commercial communities.

- **Membership Criteria**

Commission members agreed that new members should have a "passion and commitment to work for energy efficiency, carbon emission reduction and sustainable practices community wide". They should also possess specific expertise in one or more of the core areas and time to devote to the work involved. A detailed list of criteria was presented and it was suggested that these be included in a newspaper article that Bill Brennan as First Selectman would be asked to submit. All members were encouraged to seek candidates to support the Commission.

To ensure proposed candidates meet the criteria, it's essential that the Energy Commission do the final vetting. Recommendations from the DTC and RTC are welcome and Richard Creeth and Mike Lindberg will discuss with the chairs of each Committee the new requirements.

3. Comstock Energy Upgrade

Bruce Hampson described a proposal to be presented to the Board of Selectmen by Bill Brennan from Environmental Systems Corporation (ESC) and CL&P for a free energy analysis report on Comstock. The report would include estimated costs of recommended improvements, potential financing through CL&P, CEEF and ECS, and anticipated savings (projected at \$14k in electric and \$11k in oil). The payback period is estimated at 4.5 years. CL&P requires a Letter of Acceptance within 60 days after the report is submitted, followed by the negotiation of a contract. Conditions include that the energy analysis by ESC will be at no cost, but if the project is implemented, it must be done by ESC. If the project is accepted by the Town, CL&P will provide financing and CEEF grant money. Bruce will continue to follow this project.

4. "Free Solar" Town Hall / Library

Bruce Hampson reported that DCS Energy of South Glastonbury, CT has proposed to the Town a Solar Lease Contract by which DCS will lease a photovoltaic solar system(s) for a period of 60 months with no down payment and no costs to the Town. At the end of the lease period, the Town may retain the system as its own property, or return it to DCS. The size of the solar PV system is 9kW, valued at \$58,500 and producing an average of 900kWh of energy per month.

Discussion centered on the business model of DCS that enabled them to offer such contracts. Their income is apparently derived from the U.S. Government grant of 30% of clean energy installations, any Federal, State or Local rebates, plus the recovered Renewable Energy Credits (REC's). Mike Lindberg expressed concern over maintenance. Bruce and Richard Creeth will request more information on the DCS business model. The sample contract has been approved by Ken Bernard, Town Counsel.

The following facilities have expressed interest in the "Free Solar" from DCS and will be surveyed for qualification: Wilton Town Hall, Wilton Library, Middlebrook School, Cider Mill School, Football Stadium Facility. Bruce is working with Bill Brennan, Kathy Leeds and Sean O'Toole on this proposal.

Meeting concluded at 9pm.

**Submitted by Paula Byrde
June 21, 2011**