

DRAFT

Wilton Energy Commission Meeting Minutes for February 19, 2009

Attendance:

Commission Members Present: Mike Lindberg, Rust Muirhead, Ron Cagenello, Bruce Hampson, Richard Creeth, Hal Clark

Commission Members Absent: Jim Furnivall, Ron French, Mitchell Reichgut

Also Present: Jana Bertkau, Patrice Gillespie (Wilton Conservation Commission), Dona Pratt (Wilton P&Z), Martin Strasmore (Weston Select Committee on Global Warming, Ted Hoffstatter (Wilton Board of Selectmen) from 7:30 to 8:15

Meeting:

- Chairman, Mike Lindberg, called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

- Weston Select Committee on Global Warming (Martin Strasmore)
Mike welcomed Martin Strasmore. Martin summarized the efforts of the committee in reducing carbon footprint in Weston. These included 200 clean energy sign-ups, tours of green homes in Weston, improved recycling in the schools, educational articles in the Weston Forum, a no-idling campaign funded by a grant, educational talks in the schools, books and videos in the library and a town approved tax rebate for 40mpg vehicles. Martin then commented on a 3 day conference he had attended based on the book The Necessary Revolution by Peter Senge of MIT. This conference stressed that we must be careful to focus on the fundamental issues in reducing carbon emissions as opposed to making the quick fixes. Weston is trying to reach the people in the town and thinks that the schools are the best place to start to get people engaged. He recommended the following web-sites; www.pewclimate.org; www.epa.gov (a good place for grants); www.johnehrenfeld.com (author of Sustainability by Design); www.oneearth.org (good for videos); and <http://climateinteractive.wordpress.com>

- CT Clean Energy Fund Award. (Mike Lindberg)
Mike announced that Wilton is to receive an award on Tuesday, March 3rd from 3-5pm at the New Haven Lawn Club. Richard Creeth will attend and any member who would like to join him should contact Richard.

- Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Report (Bruce Hampson, Patrice Gillespie and Hal Clark)
Bruce Hampson reported that thirty communities in Connecticut including one from Fairfield County attended this very worthwhile conference. The conference emphasized that climate change is key and requires personal commitments. Bruce took away two other key points. 1) Resources, help and funding are available to us and 2) The metric is emissions and tons of CO2.

- ICLEI Membership- (Mike Lindberg)
Mike led a discussion on the timing for joining ICLEI. For a \$600 membership fee, ICLEI provides tangible support, access to software, tools, handbooks and guidebooks including a small town plan. The commission discussed how and whether to incorporate the ICLEI software with a Wilton long-range plan.

A consensus was reached to join ICLEI and use its small town plan in conjunction with other well developed Connecticut town plans and Connecticut state plan. An outline would be developed using appropriate topics for Wilton and individuals or small groups would flesh out different topics.

- Phase 2 Communication Strategy (Mike Lindberg)
Mike proposed the following:
Post meeting notices in local papers and on the town calendar (Jana Bertkau to follow-up)
Develop comprehensive mailing distribution list
Regular Conservation and Sustainability articles in local papers
Web site enhancement – Dona Pratt to follow up with Ron Cagenello
CCEF is looking for photos from Wilton Energy Commission activities. Patrice and Ron will find photos from Green Cup and newspaper articles
- Discussions with Wilton Conservation Commission (Mike Lindberg and Patrice Gillespie)
Mike had a very fruitful meeting with the Conservation Commission. There is interest in sponsoring a joint Sustainability Plan and communications through newspaper articles and through the quarterly newsletter published by the Conservation Commission. A joint meeting of the two commissions is proposed for March 12th. Other Wilton organizations whose mission may overlap with the Energy Commission include Woodcock Nature Center and Ambler Farm. We may be able to share mailing lists.
- Georgetown Community Association
The association has invited the Energy Commission to attend its April 24th panel discussion regarding Energy and Environmental Conservation. We will participate
- Earth Day on April 19th at the Wilton Library
Mike has met with the library and plans are underway including a table for Clean Energy Option sign up, a high school bio diesel car, a special film, booths for solar and geothermal, and a display for the new solar panels to be placed on the library roof

Solar Cells for the Library (Hal Clark)

Hal reported that NXG Solar is donating a solar panel for the library roof.

Solar Cells for the High School (Mike Lindberg)

Mike confirmed that Ron French has donated 10KW of solar panels for the high school. These will be added to the 4KW from the state CEF grant. The savings from Ron's panels will be placed in a scholarship fund for a high school student interested in engineering. The scholarship is in memory of Ron's wife Sherry French.

- Executive Session (Mike Lindberg) 9:40-9:50pm
Mike called the members of the Commission into Executive Session to discuss the membership of the Commission

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50pm. The next meeting is scheduled for March 12th.

Submitted by,
Jana Bertkau