

Wilton Energy Commission

Meeting Minutes for April 7, 2009-Final

Attendance:

Commission Members Present: Mike Lindberg, Rust Muirhead, Ron Cagenello, Bruce Hampson, Richard Creeth, Hal Clark, Mitchell Reichgut, Patrice Gillespie, Dona Pratt

Also Present: Jana Bertkau, Gail Lavielle, Shwetha Raghuraman and Katie from Wilton High School

Meeting:

- Chairman, Mike Lindberg, called the meeting to order at 7:05
- Bruce Hampson moved to accept the minutes of March 12th, Hal Clark seconded. Motion passed 6-0. Rust Muirhead abstained.
- WEC membership – Mike reported that the BOS approved an increase of the WEC membership to 12. He also reported that he has set the expectation with the BOS that we will have a draft of energy plan to them by September or October.
- ICLEI membership-
Bruce reported that Joe Dolan has committed to write the membership check this week. On May 4th, a member of ICLEI will meet with several members of the WEC to discuss the development of a Wilton energy plan and the support that will be provided by ICLEI. Mike suggested inviting the ICLEI staff member to lunch prior to the meeting. Patrice agreed to contact the library to reserve a meeting room for the worksession that will begin at 2:00 PM. Patrice volunteered to draft a press release for WEC review announcing Wilton's membership in ICLEI.
- NXG Solar
Hal confirmed that there is a panel on the roof of the library and a kiosk with information about the solar installation downstairs in the entry corridor. There will be a link on this kiosk to connect the viewer to the web site of the WEC. More panels can be added at a cost of \$2,800 per panel. There is enough space to provide 80% of the power needs of the library. The commission discussed the kiosk in the library. Malcolm recommended that we limit the number of paper handouts in the library. Rust suggested having a dedicated computer near the solar kiosk; all endorsed this idea. Malcolm will contact Kathy Leeds to discuss this idea.
- Summer Intern
Mike reported that a formal request had been placed with Bill Brennan for the paid summer intern to be assigned to the WEC. Bill supports this request.
- Discussions with Wilton Conservation Commission
The Wilton Conservation Commission has co-authored the first article with Mike. The commission continues to be interested in working with us on bi-weekly articles.
- Planning and Zoning and Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD)
Bruce attended the recent meeting of the P and Z to answer questions regarding the energy section and LEEDS standards. Donna commended Bruce on clearly answering the various questions presented by this diverse group. Donna feels that many of the recommendations will be included in the final POCD publication.
A conversation followed regarding the lack of a town economic plan and the role that the WEC should play without such a plan. WEC recommendations overlap with other town boards and it is unique in this status.

- Connecticut Public Transportation Commission
Mike welcomed and introduced Gail Lavielle, who is an experienced editor and communications specialist. Gail explained that she is a member of the Connecticut Public Transportation Commission which advises the DOT, the legislature and the governor. This commission considers such topics as a new parking task force to rethink all rail parking in Fairfield County and congestion pricing.
Gail explained that the commission will hold a public hearing on May 19th in Norwalk. Prior to that meeting Gail and several members of the WEC will meet to brainstorm topics for the WEC to present at this hearing. This transportation work session will be held on Saturday, April 18th at 10am at the library.
- Earth Day, April 19th
Shwetha and Katie will man a table during Earth Day with signups for the CT CleanOptions program. There will be demos by NXG and by a geothermal company. The high school will have a green VW in front of the building. Unfortunately, C, L and P will not be selling CFLs. Gail asked what the theme of this event was and who had ownership of it. There is no single theme although this would be the goal for future years. The library has ownership of the event and is publicizing it.
The WEC can add to earth week communications by publicizing the Clean Energy Award for the town of Wilton. Richard will arrange for a photo of the plaque being presented to Bill Brennan.
- Publication of biweekly conservation and sustainability articles in local Wilton newspapers
The first article, *Sustainable Wilton, A Vision for Future Generations* has been co-authored by Mike and Kristen Begor, Chairman of the Wilton Conservation Commission. The second article, *If Not Now, When?* will be written by Bruce. Both of these articles are kick-off and general in nature. Other articles under discussion include *A Bottle of Water* written by Ron (the history of the purchase, use and disposal of a plastic water bottle), *Not an Idle Thought* by Richard (the no-idling restriction in Wilton), and *Talking Trash* by Hal (new regulations for the Transfer Station). There is need for a masthead and/or a logo. There should be a recognizable sequence to the articles and a story line that grabs attention. There could be an on-going box indicating the number of clean energy sign-ups.
- Wilton Energy Plan
Mike asked for comments on the West Hartford energy plan. Rust thought the plan was well laid out with three exceptions 1. It does not address costs 2. It only addresses municipal energy and does not include commercial and residential, and 3. It does not have a section on lobbying to the state. Our plan should include these topics. There was consensus that due to the lateness of the hour and the importance of the topic that we meet next time solely to discuss the plan.
- Georgetown Community Association- Friday, April 24th at 7pm
Richard Creeth volunteered to represent the WEC at this meeting.
- The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 14th at 7pm at the library.
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:49pm.

Submitted by,
Jana Bertkau