

Wilton Energy Commission
Meeting Minutes for May 14, 2009 FINAL

Attendance

Commission Members Present: Mike Lindberg, Bruce Hampson, Ron Cagenello, Rust Muirhead (by telephone), Dona Pratt, Patrice Gillespie, Hal Clark (7:35), Gail Lavielle (9:25)
Commission Members Absent: Richard Creeth
Also Present: Jana Bertkau, Shwetha Raghuraman, Katie Jacobs,

Meeting

Call to Order

Chairman, Mike Lindberg, called the meeting to order at 7:10. Bruce Hampson made a motion to approve, Ron seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Wilton Energy Plan

Mike asked for comments on the Energy Plan Overview of October 2008. Education and Communication recommendations will run through the whole plan. Suggestions were made to rework the grid, and some changes were made. The team agreed to start with this outline and make adjustments as needed.

WEC team members volunteered to take responsibility for the functional categories listed below. Outside advisors with specific skill sets will be asked to provide additional support.

Infrastructure: Bruce Hampson (Chair), Dona Pratt,

Conservation and Sustainability: Rust Muirhead (organize the first meeting), Jana Bertkau, Patrice Gillespie, Ron Caganello

Public Policy: Hal Clark (Chair), Gail Lavielle, Richard Creeth (need to confirm)

Each team should be prepared to address the following milestone at the June meeting:

1. Define the problem statement - what are we trying to fix?
2. Document the current operating environment – what are the current and/or proposed federal, state and local regulations, initiatives and priorities that define or influence each functional area (e.g. what are the current federal, state and local mandates and guidelines defining LEED standards for new governmental, commercial or residential buildings).
3. What funding is included in the current FY 09-10 Wilton budget, (e.g. police cars or new Public Works equipment)? What recommendations should WEC propose to each corresponding department head.
4. What current federal and state grant or funding options are available?
5. What specific skills do we need to recruit to support each work group?

During our July meeting, each team should be prepared to document best-of-breed practices that have been implemented across other communities and how these initiatives might best benefit the Town of Wilton.

ICLEI Carbon Footprint Analysis

Bruce reported on the May 4th ICLEI workshop. There was town-wide participation including Kristen Begor (Conservation Commission), Pat Sesto, and Mike Conklin.(Environmental Affairs) ICLEI has given us a template for a footprint analysis. It is a huge undertaking and there is no guidebook. We have asked for what surrounding communities have done. Is there an

ICLEI consultant available for hire to do the analysis? Several suggestions emerged as to how to follow up with the task of benchmarking a footprint for the town. These included tapping into resources from Deloitte and Touche, hiring interns in coordination with the towns of Weston and Westport, asking the Environmental Affairs Director to lead the study or doing it on our own and supervising an intern. Mike will follow up with the Deloitte and Touche option first.

Staffing

Mike regretfully announced that Mitchell Reichgut has asked to be removed from membership in the commission and placed on an advisory list. That leaves two vacant positions on the commission.

Publication of biweekly conservation and sustainability articles in local Wilton newspapers

Articles for May will be *Local Produce* written by Kristen Begor and *The Energy Footprint of a Bottle of Water* by Ron Cagenello. Proposed articles for June include one about the recycling station by the Conservation Commission (Dona will follow up with the commission), and one about carbon footprint to be written by Bruce)

Plan of Conservation and Development

Dona reported that the first draft of the plan has gone to print and is on the town website. There will be a public hearing on the POCD on June 1st.

Connecticut Public Transportation Commission Hearing on 7:30pm on May 19th at Norwalk City Hall

Gail reported that she is acting as a representative of Fairfield County on this commission and is leading the publicity for this event. It has been covered in the media of every town except Westport. Residents can either attend the meeting or send in testimony. Hal has contacted local businesses to encourage participation. There is no content based agenda to bring to this hearing. The following points should be stressed.

1. Congestion on our roads must be eliminated
2. Fuel emissions must be reduced.
3. Traveling by train must be easier and more comfortable

Posters have been placed at all local train stations. Flyers will be distributed to commuters on Friday and Monday morning, May 15th and May 18th.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on June 11th at 7pm in the Wilton Library.

Submitted by,
Jana Bertkau