

Wilton Energy Commission
Meeting Minutes for June 11, 2009
Approved

Attendance

Commission Members Present: Mike Lindberg, Bruce Hampson, Ron Cagenello, Rust Muirhead(by telephone), Patrice Gillespie, Hal Clark (7:35), Gail Lavielle, Richard Creeth

Commission Members Absent: Dona Pratt

Also Present: Jana Bertkau, Natalie Berland (Clean-Air –Cool Planet Summer Climate Fellow), Matthew Salla (WEC summer intern)

Meeting

Call to Order

Chairman, Mike Lindberg, called the meeting to order at 7:05. Mike welcomed and introduced Matt Salla and Natalie Berland. Matt, a law student interested in environmental law, is putting the ICLEI greenhouse gas emissions inventory together for the town. Natalie, who has just completed a masters degree from the Monterey Institute, is surveying energy plans in communities in CT to determine what kind of tools are needed for such programs to succeed.

Review of Minutes of May 14, 2009

Hal Clark moved to approve and Ron Cagenello seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

ICLEI Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis

Mike pointed out that this analysis will help the WEC see how Wilton compares with other cities, and it will provide a benchmark for a business case to see how to start attacking the problems. Matt will be instrumental in this. Mike reached out to Weston and Ridgefield to join Wilton in this effort. Weston is going its own way. Ridgefield is following the ICLEI model. Patrice says that the town engineer for Ridgefield has tracked the municipal energy usage for the past five years and is entering that data into the ICLEI model.

Wilton P&Z Plan of Conservation and Development

Mike reported that the hearing last week had been well attended and there was support for the WEC input. There is interest in a long term economic development plan.

High School Renovations

Bruce reported that the high school renovation committee has followed as many LEED initiatives as possible in the high school. They have signed contracts for \$84,600 in rebates from CLP. The cost for those initiatives was \$88,000. Therefore, net cost was approximately \$3,500. There is an 84 percent savings in outdoor lights replacement. The high school has a computer that monitors all computers in the high school and turns them off when not used resulting in an estimated savings of \$32,000. Bruce acknowledged the leading role that Sean O'Toole has taken in the process.

Energy Plan

Mike hopes to have an outline of key points for a September meeting with the BOS.

Infrastructure (Bruce Hampson, Dona Pratt)

Bruce reported that he and Dona have followed the template from West Hartford. They suggest using the same format. It starts with an executive summary followed by the heart of the plan. Each bullet is expanded with detailed justification, pay back, funding etc. Then there is an appendix with definition of LEED. These recommendations are to be followed by definitive recommendations for incentives for green construction. We need to address the benefits for attaining LEEDS standards.

Concerning open space there was discussion about our input in this area. Should there be an ordinance against clear cutting of trees. Are we over-lapping with the Conservation Commission? We need to be aware of the Conservation Commission's actions.

Conservation and Sustainability (Rust Muirhead, Ron Cagenello, Patrice Gillespie and Jana Bertkau)

Ron reported that the group is looking at four energy plans: West Hartford, Stamford, Hamden and Brattleboro. He noted that these plans had many recommendations without specifics. It is important to bring detailed recommendations to the plan. The group liked the charts shown in the Stamford plan which detailed carbon footprint changes and financial benefits from each recommendation. The group would like to adopt the Stamford format for charts but would need help from our intern to get Wilton data. For example, a recommendation might be to replace all street lights with LED lights. Cost details and carbon footprint details for Wilton would be included. Each individual has taken ownership of one plan listing topics by pages. Now, each person has taken specific topics across the four plans and is writing a summary for what might be relevant for Wilton.

Ron requested that *Automated Controls* be moved from Conservation and Sustainability to Infrastructure and that *Energy Efficiency Curriculum* be moved from Conservation and Sustainability to Public Policy. The members agreed to these changes.

There was discussion regarding research into funding for all recommendations in the plan. Should another group be responsible just for that effort? Mike asked that members in each group do this research to the extent that they are able. Once the Commission has agreed upon a set of prioritized recommendations, then a team will be formed to develop a formal cost estimate and corresponding set of funding recommendations.

Public Policy (Hal Clark, Gail Lavielle, Richard Creeth)

Hal reported that the group had met and determined that its mission is to be the WEC's eyes and ears and to 1) know and understand public policy; 2) guide public policy; 3) direct public policy; and 4) initiate public policy. Hal summarized points of identification and outreach,

He brought the following immediate action steps forward: The group recommends that the commission team brainstorm on specific goals we would want to achieve if time and cost and

public opinion were not factors. After this members would reconvene and do a reality check for each goal. Finally, the team would set priorities and define tighter specific objectives and timelines. This brainstorming session will take place on Saturday, June 27th at 9am at Richard Creeth's office

Mike thanked the three groups for their progress and asked that all groups bring best of breed and specific recommendations to the next meeting. He asked that all groups follow the West Hartford template with the addition of cost charts from the Stamford plan.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Bruce Hampson noted that the Wilton Energy Commission should map a list of projects to available ARRA money. On July 24th the state will brief small towns on ARRA funding availability. Bruce also reported that Bill Brennan signed a proposal to do an energy audit for the town buildings and for the library.

Publication of Biweekly Conservation and Sustainability Articles

Dave Hapke's article on the transfer station is out next week. Ron Cagenello's article on the life of a bottle of water will be after that. An article on carbon footprint by Bruce Hampson will follow.

Other Business

Hal reported that Kathy Leeds has identified a donor who will match donations of up to five solar systems on the library roof. The goal is to cover all the electricity through solar panels.

Mike reported that Weston is very interested in repeating the energy contest that the high school students organized this year. It could be expanded to include more towns. The commission would benefit from having a Wilton High School science teacher join. Mike will explore whether Mr. Lucey would be interested.

Next Meeting The next meeting was scheduled to be held on July 23rd at 7pm in the Wilton Library. (Note: the July meeting was ultimately postponed to Aug. 13th.) The meeting adjourned at 9:31pm

Submitted by,
Jana Bertkau