

Wilton Energy Commission
Meeting Minutes for December 17, 2009-Final

Attendance

Commission Members Present: Mike Lindberg, Bruce Hampson, Patrice Gillespie, Gail Lavielle, Dona Pratt, Ron Cagenello, Hal Clark, Paula Byrdy

Commission Members Absent: Richard Creeth

Also Present: Jana Bertkau, Jean-Pierre Lavielle, Becky Bunnell

Meeting

1. Call to Order at 7:05 pm., Review Minutes of last WEC Meeting.

Chairman, Mike Lindberg, called the meeting to order at 7:15. Hal Clark moved to approve to approve the minutes of November 19. Gail Lavielle seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Nomination of Dona Pratt as the new Chairman of the Energy Commission

Mike announced the nomination of Dona Pratt to be the new Chairman of the Wilton Energy Commission. The nomination has gone to the BOS and will be on the next agenda. The members of the WEC are unanimous in their enthusiastic support for Dona's nomination. Dona praised Mike for his hard work behind the scenes showing dedication for the mission of the WEC for more than two years since its inception.

3. Update on ARRA Energy Grant Application....\$76,295

Bruce Hampson reported that we have not yet received from the State a decision on our application which was submitted on November 5, 2009.

Included in the application was a request for \$25,000 to fund a contract for six months of energy consulting services.

Action Item: The Wilton Energy Commission will craft a job description for the consultant. One element of the scope will be to draft an Energy Management plan for the Municipal Facilities. The WEC will recommend adoption of such a plan by the Board of Selectmen.

4. Municipal Energy Audit.

Bruce Hampson reported on his review of November 24, 2009 with the Municipal Department leaders of the Energy Audit completed by the firm of Strategic Building Solutions (SBS).

Bruce and David Valerie, a SBS Principal, met with the leaders of the Fire Department, Police, DPW, The Annex and the Library Technical Director.

The Audit identified twenty one (21) "Energy Conservation Measures" (ECM) that if implemented would cost approximately \$137,950 and save \$28,850 a year with an average payback of three (3) years.

A total of \$30,644 of the ECM's has been included in the ARRA Energy Grant Application. The balance includes ECM's that could be funded in part or whole by C.L. & P. plus others that could be characterized as deferred maintenance.

Bruce suggested to the leaders that those ECM's be include in their budget for the next year and offered to guide them if they decided to take advantage of C.L.& P. rebates.

A spirited discussion of the need for a Municipal Director of Maintenance followed.

5. Community Innovation Grant Application

Fourteen towns have signed on. The group has applied for a \$4.1M grant. Tentatively, Wilton gets 250K. We are responsible for interface with the community in this project which provides for individual house audits and energy savings recommendations. This could be a \$10M / 10 year energy savings for the town of Wilton. It will involve a huge commitment on the part of the town.

Action item: Mike Lindberg will open a dialogue with them to blend this in with the Wilton Go Green Festival

6. Implement WEC Specific Accounts within the Town General Ledger

The town is going to set up accounts for each of the grants we receive.

7. WEC 501C3 Formation – Jean–Pierre Lavielle

The incorporation of a non-stock corporation with a board, a treasurer and a secretary is very simple. After that we can apply to the IRS for a non-profit status. This is more involved. There is a six month response time from the IRS. We must have a purpose to show we are a non-profit. Ambler Farm will assist us as they have gone through this process.

8. Norwalk River Valley Multi-Use Trail- Gail Lavielle

Wilton, Redding, Ridgefield and Norwalk have applied for a grant for a feasibility study from the Recreational Trails Program of the DEP. They may get an initial approval for 190K. Then DOT approval is required. They will know something by March. Their chances are quite good. They are trying to pull together a list of broad expertise. The goal now is to get ready to go if they do get a grant. The final component is for them to stake a claim to it without doing anything against the community will. A communication strategy is important. A recommendation to pursue exploring the development of the trail as a greenway has been included in the annual report of the CT Public Transportation Commission, and will be communicated in the Commission's public briefing in Hartford in February"

9. Wilton Municipal/Schools Electrical Energy Analysis.

Bruce Hampson distributed an analysis of three (3) years of electrical energy consumption by the Schools and Municipal Facilities. The Schools represent 83% of total consumption vs. 17% for all the Municipal Facilities, including street lighting. The Town Municipal Campus consumes only 9%. The good news is that over that period total electrical energy consumption was reduced by 12.21%. The Schools take the lead with a reduction of 12.27% with Miller Driscoll leading at 25.53 % and the High School at 17.25 %. Work needs to be accomplished with the Town Campus Buildings, Their consumption increased by 3.0%

10. Wilton 20%/2010 Commitment –Mike Lindberg

By the end of next year we are committed to buy 13% of our energy from alternative sources. Sterling Planet's cost per kilowatt has dropped from \$11 per megawatt to \$4 per megawatt as a result of buying wind power from the mid-west as opposed to the northeast.

11. Wilton School Initiatives- Shwetha Raghuraman and Katie Jacobs

Shwetha and Katie have made contact with Weston and Westport regarding an energy related PSA contest. Ridgefield will probably join. In this PSA announcement, the audio-visual teacher at the school will help with guidelines and help filming. It should be student run. Now they need to focus on getting a judge from outside the three towns. They are planning to incorporate it into the festival. Gail suggested that they go to the Ad Council in New York for ideas. Another resource would be the Advertising Education Foundation. They are planning to meet with other towns. The consensus is to get other communities involved and to have two tiered judging. The final event judging would be at the festival.

Action item: Between now and the 2nd week of January, Mike and Dona will meet with Mr. Lucey, Shwetha and Katie

12. 2010 Wilton Go Green Festival- Jana Bertkau and Becky Bunnell

The name has been changed to Wilton Go Green Festival from Wilton Discover Green Festival. Becky Bunnell presented the run of show with two key-note speakers and two panels of workshops. Revenues will come primarily from the sponsors and not from exhibitors' fees. The event is intended to be community-based, educational and fun with a home show component to it. The purpose is to raise awareness among residences and businesses of practical tips and products for people to adopt to increase sustainability in their lives. The areas of focus include energy and building, food, land management, waste, watershed and transportation. Discussion followed regarding the challenge of having an event in the high school field house. This location suggests an expo/home show feel to it, and it may be difficult to succeed with this concept especially in the first year.

12. WEC Web Site Enhancements- Dona Pratt, Lisa Bogan and Ron Cagenello

Dona will communicate the flow in writing to the group. They are trying to put together a site that is low maintenance.

1., Wilton Energy Plan –key first phase priorities

Patrice passed out the Executive Summary of Greenfield MA energy report. They were able to produce an inspiring report based on ICLEI membership. Discussion of the energy plan was table to the next meeting.

14. Publication of Biweekly Conservation and Sustainability Articles in Local Wilton Papers

This item was postponed.

15. Future Meeting Schedule. January 14, 2010 from 7-9:30pm at the library.

16. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50pm.

Submitted by

Jana Bertkau