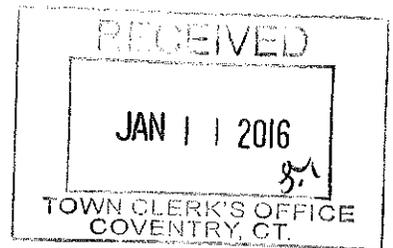


Town of Coventry  
Energy Conservation/Alternative Energy Committee



Meeting January 6, 2016 6:15 PM

**Members Present:** Jennifer Reilly, Mark Keifer, Tim Sadler, Danielle Kloster, Matt Mullen

**Members Absent:** Brandon Bradley, Andy DePalma

**Audience of Citizens:** N/A

**Call to Order:** Jenn Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:23 PM.

**Approval of Minutes:** Tim Sadler moved to approve the minutes from November 4<sup>th</sup> and Matt Mullen seconded the motion, there was no discussion, all were in favor.

**Old Business:**

Jenn Reilly reported that the EMME (Energy Management Made Easy) system for Town Hall was approved by Town Council and will be installed soon.

Jenn Reilly reported that we are continuing in 2016 with the home energy solutions program. Residents can still receive energy audits from the same vendors that worked in the town in 2015.

Jenn Reilly reported that the solar lights have been installed in Patriot's Park and have been functioning since early December. Some work on the LEDs is still being completed for the band shell and senior center building. The solar panels on the lights may need to be adjusted because the batteries have been draining. Some trees may also be trimmed to allow more direct sunlight on the panels and some of the panels are being double checked to ensure they are functioning correctly. The Windham Energy Commission is looking to put solar streetlights up and is looking for case studies, so Jenn will provide our preliminary information to them.

Tim Sadler reported that the Town Hall and Police Department solar panels have been turned on; the radio tower has not. Tim reported that Encon is looking for solutions for dripping between the Police Department's panels on the carports during rain. Matt Mullen suggested adhesive gasket tape in the grooves.

Jenn Reilly reported that the North Coventry Fire Station solar project plans have been approved and the system is waiting for installation.

Jenn Reilly reported that Coventry joined the Solar Challenge, with the goal of minimizing the time it takes for permits for solar systems.

Jenn Reilly reported that there is an article in the upcoming town newsletter regarding the town's renewable energy projects. Since 2012, we have had 100 completed energy

projects, contributing to an avoidance of 16,925 tons of carbon dioxide. The town ranks third in the state in per capita clean energy investment and 12<sup>th</sup> in per capita clean energy deployed.

Jenn Reilly reported that LED streetlights have been installed on Main Street and Boston Turnpike through an Eversource pilot project, free of charge. These lights have 50-70% energy and carbon dioxide savings and will save the town several thousand dollars per year. These lights also have a better Color Rendition Index and greater visibility in rain and fog.

Jenn Reilly reported that CT Green Bank \$4500 grant may be used for lighting replacement with LEDs in Town Hall but there are delays on the vendor's part.

Tim Sadler reported that for EESmarts there are several options: summer training for teachers, support materials, field trips that can be subsidized to the EnergizeCT educational center in North Haven. Tim will contact the superintendent of schools to see if there is an interest in these programs and if the school wants access to the data on solar panels on the high school for class projects.

Mark Keifer reported that the electrician is coming Thursday and Friday to fix the light at the bottom of the DPW driveway.

Matt Mullen updated that the Building Committee has received the proposals for energy efficiency and ADA upgrades at the Town Hall, elementary school, and high school and is planning interviews with two firms at the next Building Committee meeting.

Matt Mullen also informed the committee that an official from Cheshire Schools came and spoke at the CT AEE meeting on January 5th about their energy savings and reported that between retrofitting with LEDs and programming the lights to be dimmer and turn off when rooms are not occupied, they have saved over 80% on their light energy usage. Matt will recommend a lighting system upgrade as part of the bonding process for the other upgrades that the Building Committee is considering.

Matt Mullen will continue to look into which buildings are not up-to-date in the Energy Star program and will report back at the next meeting.

Mark Keifer reported that DPW has acquired a larger tank (1,000 gallons) for collecting waste oil. The tank was recovered from another location. American Waste will bring oil that they pick up from curbside. In the past we used 2,000 gallons of waste oil per year due to limited capacity. Mark plans for waste oil to exclusively heat the mechanic's area this winter.

Jenn Reilly will check again with John Elsesser about the potential for getting an intern to put data into the Energy Star system.

Jenn Reilly reported that the annual report and the meeting schedule for next year have been filed with the Town Clerk.

**New Business:**

Jenn Reilly let the committee know that there is a Green Circle award focused on sustainability that we can nominate an individual or business for and is due February 15<sup>th</sup>. The committee discussed potential nominees.

The committee discussed revisions to the draft of the town energy policy. Danielle Kloster will be the point person on these revisions moving forward. She will send the latest draft to the committee a week before the February meeting and the committee will discuss the draft policy at that meeting.

Jenn Reilly asked the committee if they want to continue the monthly energy tips for the committee's energy website. The committee decided that if there are tips that the committee finds that are relevant they will post them to the website .

The next meeting will be February 3, 2016 at 6:15 PM.

Jenn Reilly called the meeting to a close at 7:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Kloster

Secretary