



Town of Coventry

Energy Conservation/Alternative Energy Committee

Meeting February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 6:30 PM

**Members Present:** Jennifer Reilly, Danielle Kloster, Tim Sadler, Mark Keifer, Jesse Hayes

**Members Absent:** Andy DePalma

**Audience of Citizens:** n/a

**Call to Order:** Jenn Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

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

**Old Business:**

Jenn Reilly reported that the solar system at the North Coventry firehouse has had the permits approved. John Elsesser plans to follow-up on whether the system is producing electricity.

Tim Sadler updated that Encon went to check on the solar system at the Town Hall Annex and fixed a blown fuse, so the system is now operating. The committee extends thanks to Encon for their help.

Jenn Reilly reported that Brian Parson, an energy engineer with the Eversource energy efficiency program, looked at the Energy Star Portfolio Manager and ASHRAE Level 1 audit for the town buildings. Brian assessed the lowest payback measures that could be conducted in the buildings. In the Town Hall, he recommended insulating the HVAC ductwork, updating T8 fixtures to LED fixtures, and air sealing the attic. Both the fire station and the library would benefit from converting T8 fixtures to LED fixtures as well. Additionally, he recommended updating the chiller operation in the library. Brian requested a phone call to discuss this and other potential projects in the town. John Elsesser has requested for Mark Keifer to be on the call. The committee also plans to include a representative from the Library Building Committee and library staff. The committee should also submit information on any special projects (e.g., installation of the solar streetlights in the park, Home Energy Solutions) conducted over the last couple years. Tim Sadler will work on collecting the information for projects.

Jenn Reilly updated the committee that the exterior piping for the natural gas project is complete and gas is flowing. Town Hall and the Town Hall Annex are expected to be connected by the end of February. The initial piping to the schools is complete and the town plans for the schools to be connected in April. The fire station and police station needed to purchase high efficiency natural gas boilers because the boilers in place could not be converted to natural gas. There are about 6,000 gallons of oil remaining in town

tanks and since some of the town buildings are transitioning to natural gas, John Elsesser plans to find a contractor that can move the oil to other facilities.

Jenn Reilly updated that pricing has been locked in for propane with a different company than has been used previously.

Mark Keifer reported that the town has gone out for diesel pricing.

Danielle Kloster updated that Eric Trott will plan to include the energy policy drafted by the committee in the next update for the Plan of Conservation and Development in 2020.

Jenn Reilly updated that there may be an opportunity for CT GreenBank to help with the application for a solar ambassador for the town. Jenn will follow up on this.

Mark Keifer updated that a recycling grant, waste reduction grant, and pay-as-you-use grant (for additional recycling bins) were submitted to DEEP today.

Tim Sadler updated that the schools will apply for two medium ZREC projects (middle school and high school) and one small ZREC project (high school). The planned carport will have 620 kW of solar.

Tim Sadler updated that he will check with Encon on sending the email to thank Solarize volunteers.

The committee plans to run a series of three workshops this winter (February, March, and April). Jenn Reilly reported that the library is available for a workshop on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Jesse Hayes can conduct the first workshop on clean wood burning at 6:30 pm. He requested for someone on the committee to contact Mainline Wood Stove sellers and let them know about the workshop if they are interested in participating. Jenn Reilly will bring pamphlets from DEEP. Mark Keifer will contact someone at Mechanical Maintenance to see if they are interested in leading a workshop in March (possibly on the 21<sup>st</sup>) on mini-splits. Jenn will contact someone about conducting a workshop on green cleaning products in April (possibly on the 18<sup>th</sup>). Another potential workshop topic is radon awareness.

Mark Keifer reported that the solar light is functioning and so malfunctioning may be due to the battery not charging. He will try changing the battery to see if that helps.

### **New Business**

Jenn Reilly reported that John Elsesser is interested in pursuing a small ZREC project at Orchard Hills. The septic system for the building is no longer functional, as the building has been tied into the town sewers, so solar could be installed over the solar field. The building is slated to be reroofed by fall of 2017. Orchard Hills is a state, municipal, and private operation, so getting approvals may be more complex. Tim Sadler has met with the managers of the facility and a potential option would be to tie everything at the

facility into one meter and then sub-meter each apartment. Tim Sadler will follow up with Lynn Stoddard at Eastern Connecticut State University to see if she has a student who would be able to calculate net present value for the project.

Jenn Reilly reported that the Volkswagen settlement is ongoing and CT DEEP is asking the public for ideas to include in the state's draft proposed mitigation plan. Volkswagen is also planning to install EV chargers across the country and the committee discussed potential locations in Coventry to install additional EV chargers.

Jenn Reilly reported on updates from the Clean Water Action call last Tuesday. Ashford picked two vendors to do Home Energy Solutions programs, including a light bulb swap and a program on energy efficiency. Hamden is trying to hire an energy manager and update green building standards for town buildings. They are also trying to change how the committees are staffed with volunteers, as the party affiliation composition for committees is unbalanced. Milford is doing a Solarize campaign. Norwalk is renovating three of their schools and they are looking for energy efficiency options that can be included in their curriculum.

Danielle Kloster reported that she will be moving out of the town in May and will resign from the committee at that point.

The next meeting will be March 1, 2017 at 6:30 pm. Jenn Reilly called the meeting to a close at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Kloster