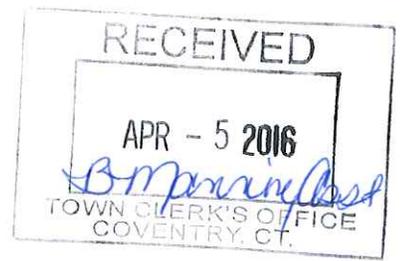


Town of Coventry
Energy Conservation/Alternative Energy Committee



Meeting March 2, 2016 6:15 PM

Members Present: Jennifer Reilly, Mark Kiefer, Danielle Kloster, Matt Mullen, Andy DePalma

Members Absent: Brandon Bradley, Tim Sadler

Audience of Citizens: N/A

Call to Order: Jenn Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:18 PM.

Approval of Minutes: Matt Mullen moved to approve the minutes from February 3rd and Andy DePalma seconded the motion, there was no discussion, all were in favor.

Old Business:

Jenn Reilly reported that the boiler in the Town Hall cracked last week and will need to be replaced. Mark Keifer stated that it will be covered by insurance. Insurance will also cover the asbestos abatement around the boiler. The current plan is to replace the boiler with a propane boiler, which is more efficient than oil. The boiler will also run on natural gas if a natural gas pipeline comes to town.

Jenn Reilly reported that Ackert Electric is working on the Patriot's Park LED lights and troubleshooting lights that are not working.

Jenn Reilly reported the Town Council is contemplating the decision to continue working with the 2015 Home Energy Solution vendors to preform energy audits to residents in 2016. The Energy Committee is in favor of moving ahead with working with the 2015 HES vendors and would like to see a letter signed from the Chair of Town Council and the Energy Committee, sent to residents informing them about HES.

Jenn Reilly reported that there is a new round of Solarize. Solarize is a program in which the more people that sign up to install solar on their homes, the cheaper it is. The committee determined that they would like to initiate the program for the town. Jenn Reilly volunteered to contact Smart Power, the organizers of Solarize to see what was needed to participate in round seven of the Solarize program.

Jenn Reilly reported John Elsesser is going out to bid on electric for Town buildings in mid-month and anticipates good rates.

Jenn Reilly reported that approval is pending for the lighting upgrade in Town Hall and the project is waiting for a pre-approval inspection from Eversource before it can move forward.

Jenn Reilly informed the committee that John Elsesser locked in gasoline and diesel rates for the next year and is bidding out propane rates for town and schools.

Jenn Reilly updated that the North Coventry firehouse is waiting on DBS to start work on the solar installation.

Jenn Reilly reported that the town hired BL Company for building energy studies. Matt Mullen reported that the building committee is waiting for the contract to be finished.

Jenn Reilly reported that energy consumption at the high school has increased; leading them to believe that there is an issue with the solar panels. The committee questions how the solar panels are negatively affecting consumption. Matt Mullen said that additional heat tracing may have been added to the panels, which might consume more electricity than initially projected. Jenn Reilly will circle back with Tim Sadler at Encon to see what is being done to rectify this issue.

Jenn Reilly reported that John Elsesser has an intern two days a week who can help on energy-related tasks. Matt Mullen suggested that he work on the town and school building Energy Star benchmarking for 2015 and the beginning of 2016. The town buildings are almost up-to-date.

Jenn Reilly informed the committee that there continues to be an issue with rainwater coming between the panels at the police station carport. One possible solution is installing corrugated plastic or metal under the panels. Mark Kiefer suggested that a gutter contractor could put a drip edge between panels to drain water to the back and into a gutter and drainpipe. He stated that the committee should determine the cost of potential solutions. The police station is getting new gutters in May, so Mark will look into getting a quote for the carports from the company fixing the gutters.

Jenn Reilly reported that Mark Kiefer submitted a Green Circle Sustainability Award nomination on behalf of the energy committee.

Andy DePalma suggested that since the town has a high rate of recycling, as reported last month, there is potential to change the trash pick-up schedule to pick up recycling every week and trash every other week.

Jenn Reilly reported that the high school is applying for an EV charger through the state's EVConnecticut program.

Jenn Reilly reported that the Clean Energy Task Force meeting was cancelled and moved to this past weekend. None of the committee members were able to attend.

Jenn Reilly reported that concerning the LED streetlight pilot project, Eversource is currently out of lights so the town will receive more streetlights when they are available.

New Business

Jenn Reilly informed the committee that the committee could sign up to have a table at the Coventry Farmers' Market. The committee discussed the possibility of a once a month commitment to a table at the market that focused on energy informational displays. Matt Mullen suggested getting free energy efficient light bulbs to hand out.

Energy Policy

The committee worked on revising the energy policy.

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

Jenn Reilly called the meeting to a close at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Kloster

Secretary