

Wilton Energy Commission
Meeting Minutes for April 30, 2008

Commission Members:

Present: Mike Lindberg, Jim Snedeker, Bruce Hampson, Rust Muirhead, Mitch Reichgut, Jim Furnivall, Ron Cagenello (7:10), Richard Creeth (7:40),

Absent: Ron French

Also Present: Jana Bertkau (Conservation Committee)

Meeting:

- Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Mike Lindberg
- Mitch Reichgut moved to accept the minutes of April 9, 2008, seconded by Ron Cagenello. Motion passed 4 to 0 with two abstentions.
- Mike reported that the Energy Commission was on the agendas of the P&Z and Conservation Commission for May 5th and May 7th respectively. The purpose is to present the long range plan of the WEC.
- Mike reported on his attendance at the Governors conference on Climate Change
- The commission devoted the rest of the meeting to its long range plan. The outline of this planning session follows:
 - 1) The commission identified the following challenges facing Wilton over the next 10 years:
 - a. Controlling energy costs (Government)
 - b. Reducing dependence on foreign oil
 - c. Creating energy efficient and sustainable construction and rehabilitation standards
 - d. Managing the town's energy demand
 - 2) From these challenges the following goals & action items were identified:
 - a. Goal #1: Adopt LEED Guidelines for construction and rehabilitation of public, commercial, and residential buildings.
 - i. Action items:
 1. Town must support all updated relevant state statutes
 2. All facilities should adhere to these guidelines regardless of funding parameters.
 - b. Goal #2: 20% or more of the town's energy should be from alternative sources to today's fossil fuels.
 - i. Action Items:
 1. Local tax incentives
 2. Lobby for state tax incentives
 3. Increase education and advocacy efforts
 4. Install wind turbines and solar panels
 - c. Goal #3: Reduce the town's energy costs by ___%
 - i. Action Items:
 1. Utilize the Benchmarking Data as a management tool
 2. Continue to audit buildings for efficiency gains

3. Implement life cycle costing
- d. Goal #4: Manage Energy Demand
 - i. Action Items:
 1. Lobby to obtain peak load consumption information and reduce accordingly
 2. Establish benchmarks for fossil fuel consumption and reduce accordingly
 3. Promote a mix of alternate fuels for transportation and heat
 4. Ensure consistency and adherence to state and federal mandates
 5. Convert town vehicles and heating systems to alternate energy.
 6. Lobby utility companies to change off/on peak pricing structure
 7. Implement a personal property tax reduction or exemption for alternative energy vehicles
 8. Reduce traffic by promoting pedestrian walk ways
 9. Evaluate deployment of train shuttle buses.
 10. Implement preferred parking for alternative energy vehicles and HOV.

- This outline will be used as the basis of the WEC's long (10 years) medium (2 to 5 years) and short term plan.
- The Commission is still planning on sponsoring a Congressional candidate debate on energy.
- Little People Big Changes Climate Leadership award will be presented in Windsor, CT on May 27.
- Mike is scheduled to meet with Gary Richards to discuss the school board's purchase of Clean Energy credits from Sterling Planet.
- Mike & Ron French met with the leaders of the Congregational Church to promote Clean Energy sign ups.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Rust Muirhead