

**Wilton Energy Commission**  
Meeting Minutes for August 21, 2008

**Attendance:**

*Commission Members Present:* Mike Lindberg, Rust Muirhead, Mitch Reichgut, Ron Cagenello, Ron French, Jim Furnivall, Bruce Hampson, Richard Creeth, Jim Snedeker

*Also Present:* Hal Clark (Board of Selectmen), Patrice Gillespie (Conservation Commission), Swetha Raghuraman (Communications Committee)

**Meeting:**

- Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Mike Lindberg
- Ron Cagenello moved to accept the minutes of June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008, seconded by Mitch Reichgut. Motion passed 7 to 0. Ron French and Jim Snedeker abstained.
- Ron Cagenello moved to accept the minutes of July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008, seconded by Mitch Reichgut. Motion passed 4 to 0. Ron French, Jim Snedeker, Jim Furnivall, Bruce Hampson and Richard Creeth abstained.
- Bruce Hampson introduced Robert Gary and his associates from Geo-Tech, an authorized dealer and installer for Earth to Air (ETA) advanced direct exchange geothermal systems. Geo-Tech gave a presentation about geothermal heating and cooling.
  - Geo-Tech made a distinction between traditional water source systems and newer direct exchange systems. Direct exchange systems are far more efficient in that they use a refrigerant (vs. water) and copper tubing (vs. PVC).
  - The system is substantially more efficient than traditional HVAC systems and can be used in commercial environments, i.e. Comstock
  - Estimated Payback for new home construction was quoted at 3 to 4 years and 5 to 6 years for retrofits with hydro air.
  - Very limited state and federal subsidies for geothermal systems.
- Conservation Committee Report- Rust Muirhead
  - We received two reports from the Institute for Sustainable Energy (one for schools and one for municipal buildings) based on the data we submitted. We are currently reviewing those reports and will provide additional detail at the next meeting.
  - The Clean Energy Community web site reports 178 signups (3.2% of households) in Wilton as of August 21st, reflecting an increase of 38 from last month.
  - Rust asked for suggestions for future vendor presentations. One suggestion was that we invite representatives from other town's energy groups. Getting someone from the automobile industry was also suggested.

- Building Committee Report – Bruce Hampson
    - WHS
      - Approved in total by BOS 8/18/2008
        - BOS scheduled Town Meeting 9/16/2008
      - \$20,534,000 budget
        - HVAC : \$ 12,683,000 + Soft costs of approximately 23% of hard costs.
        - Little Theater: \$1,086,000
        - Science Labs : \$2,932,000
      - LEED: Scope did not conform to a LEED certification opportunity.
      - Project did honor LEED and Sustainable design strategies:
      - LEED “Credit” elements:
        - Separate Commissioning contract
        - Exceed minimum Energy Performance Requirements
        - Fundamental refrigerant management
        - Optimization of HVAC Equipment control
        - Use of recycled materials
        - Construction waste recycled and documented
        - Structural steel made from 80% recycled Material
        - Extensive use of Regional Materials
        - Enhanced classroom acoustics.
        - Exceed IAQ standards
          - Demand Fresh Air control. CO<sub>2</sub> Monitoring.
        - IAQ Management plan during Construction
        - Use of non VOC materials
        - Enhanced controllability of Lighting and thermal comfort Systems
          - Occupancy sensors.
          - VAV Air distribution
          - DCC control System
            - Adaptable Control intelligence.
            - Electric Demand limit alarm
    - Comstock
      - Budget and scope approved by the BOS , July 21, 2008
      - 44,812 SqFt.
        - 11,446 Senior Center Center
        - 24,988 Community Center
        - 2,620 Town Departments
        - 5,758 Fitness Center
    - Total Budget \$ 25,607,680
    - Building Committee formed
      - First step is to select an A&E Team
    - Project will be at least a certified LEED Silver
- Communications Report – Mitch Reichgut

- Westport (via HS students) has agreed to join Wilton and Weston in the Energy Conservation Competition. First meeting will be in September to discuss rules and timelines.
- Mitch asked members to think about stories/events that could be fed to the media.
- CT Clean Energy Community Designation
  - Having met all of the requirements we will be receiving a 3kw photovoltaic system. Mike to meet with Gary Richards to discuss placement. Ron French to assist in order to ensure optimal placement. There was general agreement that high visibility should be the primary criteria.
- Elderly & Low-income heating assistance
  - Mike reported that according to the town's social services director, 25 families in Wilton qualified for low income energy assistance last year, with others needing assistance but being disqualified under current guidelines.
  - It was agreed that we would provide informational links on our web site
  - Mike asked that WEC members agree to volunteer to work on homes needing sealing, caulking, etc. to improve their energy efficiency.
- Meeting with BOS on 9/8/08
  - Mike will provide a draft of presentation and asked for members thoughts on what should be included:
    - Accomplishments to date
    - Long Range Plan
    - Municipal Department Energy Monitoring & Management Plan
- iPark Tour
  - We will try and arrange the tour for September 13<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon.
- Fourth District Congressional Debate
  - Mike working with Chris Shays and Richard working with Jim Hines. Neither candidate will commit to the debate, but they have not rejected the idea.
  - We will look at sponsoring with multiple towns, but still hold the debate in Wilton
- Community Outreach
  - Mike asked Rust to re-circulate the Community Outreach assignment list and asked members to renew efforts in this area.
- Next Meeting Scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Rust Muirhead