

ENERGY COMMISSION

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

203-563-0100



Peter Wrampe
Chair
Kevin Gardiner
Vice Chair & Secretary
Anna Marie Bilella
Patrice Gillespie
Eileen Griffin
Dave Heiden
Glenn Hemmerle
Rich Hubli
Jim Jarvie

WILTON ENERGY COMMISSION
Meeting, Tuesday January 15, 2018
Comstock Community Center, RM 31
7:00 pm
Minutes

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
TOWN OF WILTON
2019 JAN 22 P 12:49
BY: LK

Attending WEC Members: Peter Wrampe, Kevin Gardiner, Anna Marie Bilella, Patrice Gillespie, Glenn Hemmerle, Jim Jarvie, Eileen Griffin, Dave Heiden, Rich Hubli

Absent WEC Members: Not applicable

Other Attendees: Deb McFadden, Debra Thompson-Van

1. Peter Wrampe called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
2. Agenda reviewed, with no motions to add topics.
3. Welcome to new members Dave Heiden and Rich Hubli.
4. **Approval of minutes** of November 14, 2018 regular meeting.
Motion by Glenn Hemmerle and seconded by Kevin Gardiner
6-0-3 Vote to approve with 3 abstentions (Anna Marie, Dave, and Rich)

Eileen Griffin noted that the November 14, 2018 minutes were posted to the Town website twice.

Action Items: Patrice Gillespie will contact the town to remove the duplicate minutes.

5. **Status of Action Items** identified in November 14, 2018 meeting.
 - a. Lynne Vanderslice has the Town Council engaged to salvage the solar projects that are on hold. We have 2 schools complete, 2 schools and Comstock to be completed, and need to get the second projects back on track.
 - b. We believe that Chris Burney is looking into additional areas of the High School roof, as there are structural issues that would inhibit the town's ability to install solar on the town field house.
Action Items: Peter Wrampe to ask Chris Burney to join the appropriate next WEC Meeting (ideally February or March).

- c. Kevin Gardiner does not have a link to the Sustainable CT Webinar, but will provide a link to the FAQs.

Action Items: Kevin Gardiner to provide a link to the Sustainable CT FAQs.

6. Nomination and Election of Commission Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary

- a. Glen Hemmerle nominated Peter Wrampe for the position of Chairperson. Eileen Griffin nominated Kevin Gardiner for the position of Chairperson. Peter and Kevin stepped out of the room for deliberation by the remaining WEC members,

4-2-1 Vote to elect Peter Wrampe as Commission Chair:

For Peter Wrampe (4): Anna Marie Bilella, Dave Heiden, Glenn Hemmerle and Rich Hubli

For Kevin Gardiner (2): Patrice Gillespie and Eileen Griffin

Abstaining (1): Jim Jarvie

Not Present (2): Kevin Gardiner and Peter Wrampe

6-0-1 Vote to elect Kevin Gardiner as Commission Vice-Chair:

For: Anna Marie Bilella, Dave Heiden, Glenn Hemmerle, Rich Hubli, Patrice Gillespie and Eileen Griffin

Abstaining (1): Jim Jarvie

Not Present (2): Kevin Gardiner and Peter Wrampe

- b. After Kevin and Peter returned, a nomination was made for Ken Gardiner to continue as Secretary

8-0-1 Vote (with Jim Jarvie abstaining)

7. Discussion of Sustainable CT Subcommittee.

Kevin informed the group that the final submission deadline for the 2019 Sustainable CT certification cycle is August 30, 2019. There is an optional submission deadline of May 2, 2019 to receive initial feedback on actions completed. Based on an August 2018 discussion that Kevin had with Ben Oko from the town of Ridgefield (which achieved Sustainable CT bronze certification in 2018), 20-30% of items submitted will be rejected by the Sustainable CT Certification Committee. Given that there are no resubmissions, Kevin recommended to the group that it will behoove the town to target the optional early submission deadline of May 2, 2019.

Motions:

- a. Rich made a motion for Kevin Gardiner and Debra Thompson-Van to be co-chairs of the Sustainable CT Subcommittee. Second by Peter.

8-0-1 Vote (with Jim Jarvie abstaining)

- b. Eileen made a motion to request that the town of Wilton return Debra's access to her town of Wilton email account given that she will be co-chairing the Sustainable CT sub-committee. Second by Peter.

8-0-1 Vote (with Jim Jarvie abstaining)

Action Items:

- a. Peter to request the town to return Debra's access to her town of Wilton email account.
b. Kevin and Debra to provide Sustainable CT project plan at the February 2019 meeting.

8. Discussion of 2019 Focus Area for WEC and individual ownership of/responsibility for certain areas.

Debra suggested that WEC continue to be active participants in POCD meetings, given the strong connection to sustainability and resiliency. Peter recommended that all WEC members review POCD and Sustainable CT item lists, and vote as a group on the areas that we want to participate in; with an emphasis on energy related areas where we believe we can have an impact.

9. Confirmation of Meeting schedule dates for 2019

Motion: Anna Marie made a motion to vote on the 2019 WEC Meeting Schedule. Seconded by Glenn.

8-0-1 Vote (with Jim Jarvie abstaining)

10. Update on Solar Program

- a. Projects in Suspension –The ZRECs remain in suspension. They are not dead, but the expiration dates are not clear. We believe that Comstock is no longer moving forward.

Action Items: Glenn to contact Mark Robertson for a formal document/update; the WEC member would like to know the details of the project status, the completion deadlines, and the risk areas.

- b. Virtual Net Metering - The BOS' immediate focus is to shift to Virtual Net Metering (VNM) with Weston while the contractual issues and ZRECs pertaining to the solar projects currently on hold are sorted out. (Note: VNM enables a developer to build a solar farm in one town, and offset the energy in another town.)

Deb McFadden read a note from Lynn Vanderslice related to VNM:

“The solar installation will be developed and owned by Citrone Power. We will receive a credit from Eversource for each kWh they receive from the system up to the amount in the agreement. We will pay Citrone a fixed rate per kWh for each kWh credit we receive. Should the Eversource credit rate ever drop below the rate we pay Citrone, we have protection because the contract has a non-appropriations clause. Every CT municipal contract must have this clause, as under CT statutes you cannot obligate funds that have not been appropriated. Our attorney has assured us this is iron clad. The developer has acknowledged this also.”

Patrice was concerned that Citrine Power may not own the land, which could cause project delays. According to Deb McFadden, a Citrine competitor has already installed a farm in Weston, so Citrine is confident that they can complete the installation by the end of 2019.

While the ZRECs, depending on their value, may be more cost effective than VNM on a per kWh basis, VNM will provide a greater volume of solar power output.

11. Members comment

Anna Marie asked for confirmation of the number of WEC position vacancies. Deb McFadden confirmed that WEC currently has 1 opening; Jim Jarvie will continue to serve as a voting member until a replacement is elected by the Board of Selectman. Given that the current WEC membership is split 4 Democrats and 4 Republicans (not counting Jim), Jim's positions can be filled by a member of either party, or by an unaffiliated candidate or a candidate of an independent party; the maximum number of WEC positions that can be filled by a single party is 6 of the 9 positions.

The BOS is currently accepting nominations from both parties, as well as independent and unaffiliated candidates, and will vote on the most qualified candidate (again, there is not currently a requirement for the vacancy to be filled by a specific party).

Patrice: Wilton Go Green Zero Waste Fair will be held on March 23 at the Field House.

12. Public comment

Deb McFadden: Thank you for the WEC's hard work. Congratulations to the new Chair and co-chair, and to the co-chairs of the Sustainable CT Subcommittee. Thank you for continuing to bird dog the ZREC program, so that Wilton can continue to take advantage of every opportunity.

Debra Thompson-Van: Thank you to everyone. Chris Burney commended the WEC in the early January meeting on Virtual Net Metering; there is little risk to prioritizing VNM given that WEC has already pushed sustainability in the town about as far as it can be.

13. Adjournment: 8:41 PM

8-0-1 Vote (with Jim Jarvie abstaining)