

ENERGY COMMISSION

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

203-563-0100



Debra Thompson-Van
Richard Creeth
Co-Chairs
Peter Wrampe
Vice Chairman
Gil Bray
Patrice Gillespie
Bruce Hampson
Glenn Hemmerle
Gil Hollander
Philip Murphy

WILTON ENERGY COMMISSION
Meeting, Wednesday April 26th, 2017
Comstock Room 12
7:00 pm
Minutes

Members Present: Debra Thompson-Van, Richard Creeth, Peter Wrampe, Patrice Gillespie, Bruce Hampson, Glenn Hemmerle, Gil Hollander (by phone until 7:40pm), Philip Murphy (at 7:20pm)
Members Absent: Gil Bray (away in London)
Guests: Kevin Gardiner, resident

- 1) Richard called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.
- 2) Minutes
 - a) The minutes of the March 29th regular meeting were approved unanimously (Moved by Glenn, seconded by Peter).
 - b) A motion was made by Debra, seconded by Peter and passed unanimously to add the approval of the April, 12th RFP minutes to the agenda.
 - c) The April 12th RFP minutes were approved by Richard, Debra, Bruce and Peter with the rest abstaining since they were not present (Moved by Richard, seconded by Bruce)
 - d) The April 13th CEC minutes were approved by Richard, Bruce and Patrice with the rest abstaining since they were not present (Richard moved, Bruce seconded)
- 3) Richard moved, Bruce seconded to move Item 4 Residential HES Update next on the agenda since Gil, who was making the report was on the phone. Approved Unanimously.
- 4) Gil Hollander reported on plans to re-energize the HES program (see attached PowerPoint). The presentation was well received and much discussion about the HES program ensued. It was the sense of the meeting that
 - a) A new focus on the HES audit was a good idea.

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BY: *R. Wrampe*

- b) We should partner with Wilton GoGreen if they are willing. Gil to follow up with Dana Gips.
 - c) WGG would be the logical organization to receive the \$25 donations. We would like to ensure that these funds are used by WGG to support energy conservation or sustainability initiatives.
 - d) The idea of including a third vendor in the program was welcomed, provided that the vendor was properly vetted. Gil explained that all the vendors were vetted by EverSource.
 - e) The letter to the community should be signed by the First selectman, both WEC Co-chairs and the President of WGG.
 - f) Debra suggested that it would be good to set a target for HES audit of 30% of Wilton homes.
 - g) Including water conservation in the scope of the HES audit as an optional item would be beneficial.
- 5) CEC Sub Committee report
- a) Bruce and Patrice reported on the Clean Energy Communities initiative. Bruce referred to the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund's Energy Efficiency Board 2016 Programs and Operations Report which showed that Wilton has received \$1.175m in Energy Initiative grants and is using 2,054 MegaWatt Hours less power per year as a result. This means the Town is putting 1,239 less tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere each year than if those initiatives had not been undertaken. Bruce also listed some of the initiatives, such as relamping, high efficiency boilers etc. Peter agreed to quantify the value of these initiatives and work with Philip to communicate this to the community.
 - b) Patrice reported on Wilton's progress on CEC initiatives. She noted that Wilton has scored well and we are only 30 points away from another Bright Ideas grant. Patrice also explained that the CEC dashboard will soon be taken re-engineered by Sustainable CT, a not for profit, which will be playing the leading role in the CEC program.
- 6) Commission Initiatives
- a) Energy Performance and Reporting – Richard reported that Portfolio Manager was now up to date for the four schools which are the largest, Town owned, energy consumers. Furthermore, the EverSource web service will now automatically update Portfolio Manager with Electricity and Gas consumption and cost each month going forward. Richard also showed several charts in Excel with data downloaded from Portfolio Manager. Now that PM is up to date it was agreed that the CEC subcommittee would contact the School Superintendent to work with the administration to find the best way to use the data to encourage conservation.
 - b) Energy Star Recognition – deferred until next meeting.
 - c) POCD – Bruce explained that the Plan of Conservation and Development is to be updated. The Town has issued an RFP for a consultant to assist in the process of drafting it. The previous POCD issued in 2010 had input from the WEC. Bruce stressed that it is important that the WEC give significant input to the POCD

particularly in light of the fact that the Economic Development Commission (Which did not exist when the previous POCD was drafted) is expected to have significant input.

- d) No other initiatives were discussed.
- 7) Update on Municipal Solar project – Debra reported that due diligence on the finalist vendors is ongoing. The next meeting at which the Selectmen could discuss it is May 8th. Debra also discussed the possibility of applying for large RECs for the High School which although likely to result in a lower price per REC would allow us to install a much larger system which could, potentially save the Town more money. The sense of the meeting was that it would make sense to explore the idea.
- 8) Communications – deferred until next meeting.
- 9) Web site – deferred until next meeting.
- 10) Richard called the meeting to a close at 9:15.

Residential Outreach Update

Wilton Energy Commission

Gil Hollander

203-253-5918

gil.Hollander@wiltonct.org

Promoting Home Energy Solution (HES)

- HES Audits are provided by Eversource approved contractors
 - Eversource subsidizes the audits so that homeowners pay only \$124 or nothing at all for qualified homeowners.
 - Homeowners receive services that can be valued at up to \$1000 including:
 - Bulb Replacement, Caulking and Weather Stripping, etc.
 - Recommendations on additional services
 - Water Savings Devices
 - Eversource marketing folks are working to finalize the letter pending some additional feedback from us. They are working up some new messaging they feel will drive greater response rates.
- On Following Slides there is information on three vendors that have said they will donate \$25 to the Wilton charity we choose, or possibly to one a Homeowner would select.

Questions to finalize the letter

- Who should be the signatories to the letter, First Selectman (Lynne), WEC Chair (Debra) or both?
 - I recommend both if both Lynne and Debra would be agreeable.
- Where would \$25 contribution go to? Options include:
 - WGG like last year
 - One vendor (Vivian from HE Energy Solutions) expressed interest in earmarking donations for a program within WGG
 - The school no waste program that Patrice knows something about
 - Homeowner choice of Wilton based organizations (e.g., Youth Sports, WGG, etc.)
 - Something else?
 - My recommendation if Eversource is OK with it is to identify a default organization (e.g., WGG) but also allow Wilton homeowners to choose any Wilton based charity that will do it's work in Wilton.
- Is anyone opposed to including a third vendor in the program?
 - The 3rd vendor is Home Comfort Practice (www.homecomfortpractice.com, owner is Lorenzo Wyatt who it seems wants to market aggressively). I met with Lorenzo and he seems to be an aggressive marketer who told me he will market aggressively.
 - That would be in addition to:
 - New England Smart Energy Group (www.ne-smartenergy.com, owner Stephanie Weiner)
 - HE Energy Solutions (www.he-energysolutions.com, Owner is Vivian Perez)
- Eversource is now including messaging on the opportunity for water savings resulting from the HES and Natalia asked if we want to include mention of that in our letter. Eversource, or at least Natalia, says this is partially in response to drought conditions in SW CT.
 - My recommendation is yes.
 - While not directly related to Energy, it is another benefit to the homeowner.

Home Energy Solutions - Suggested Wilton Partners

- Three Eversource "approved" contractors that will donate \$25 to a Wilton Charity are:
- HE Energy Solutions (<http://he-energysolutions.com>)
 - Owner, Vivian Perez, vivian@he-energysolutions.com, m: 203-913-4971, o: 203-307-5395;
 - Vivian says they will not be at the WGG festival as they do not want to compete with NE Smart Energy Group and she feels the Wilton market is saturated in terms of the folks that would attend the WGG.
 - She is however interested in pursuing other demographic groups such as young families or the elderly.
 - For young families she is interested in supporting the WGG no school waste program and would consider earmarking their donations to support that program.
 - For the elderly, she sees the program as satisfying a "honey do" list effort with bulb replacement, etc.
 - She is also interested in pursuing the demographic that would get free HES due to financials.
- New England Smart Energy Group (<http://www.ne-smartenergy.com>)
 - Owner: Stephanie Weiner, stephaniew@ne-smartenergy.com
 - Office Manager - Mike Murray, 203-988-2830;
 - NE Smart Energy I believe will be at the WGG festival
- Home Practice Comfort (<http://www.homecomfortpractice.com>)
 - Owner: Lorenzo Wyatt, lorenzo@homecomfortpractice.com, m: 203-667-9191; o: 203-450-3000
 - Lorenzo's company is doing lots of HES audits outside of Fairfield county and he wants to move aggressively in this area.
 - Home Comfort Practice I believe will be at the WGG festival
 - Lorenzo has also indicated he would be willing to donate an additional \$25 to a homeowner selected charity (e.g., Wilton Youth Sports) if that is not a problem.

Additional information

- Wilton Currently has 263 points (per Natalia on Apr 4)
- Accumulating Points
 - For every HES Audit, Wilton gets 1 point (confirm)
 - Note from PG note says for each 1% Wilton folks gets HES, gets points
 - Through Eversource Tracking
- Still must look on how to promote via school clubs, via other commissions, Wilton facebook groups, local newspapers and blogs (e.g., GMW), etc.
 - Suspect this will be easier once the mailer is out as a re-inforcing message.
 - Would welcome feedback from the Marketers in our midsts.