

**ENERGY COMMISSION**

COMSTOCK COMM. CTR.  
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Wilton, CT 06897

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Debra Thompson-Van  
**Chairperson**  
Peter Wrampe  
**Vice Chair**  
Kevin Gardiner  
**Secretary**  
AnnaMarie Bilella  
Patrice Gillespie  
Glenn Hemmerle  
Gil Hollander  
Jim Jarvie  
Eileen Griffin

**WILTON ENERGY COMMISSION**  
**Meeting, Wednesday May 16, 2018**  
**Comstock**  
**7:00 pm**  
**Minutes**

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Attending WEC members: Debra Thompson-Van (phone), Peter Wrampe, Kevin Gardiner, Patrice Gillespie, , AnnaMarie Bilella, Eileen Griffin, and Glenn Hemmerle

Absent WEC members: Gil Hollander, Jim Jarvie

Other Attendees: None

1. Peter Wrampe called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.
2. Approval of minutes of February 21, 2018 regular meeting. Patrice Gillespie proposed a one change to the April 2018 Minutes. Item 4 (CEC Awards) should have stated that previous awards were used to setup Energy Efficiency Updates at Ambler Farm. This one change and the other minutes were approved. First, Peter Wrampe; Second, AnnaMarie Bilella. All attendees in favor, with Glenn abstaining due to being absent on April 11.
3. **Update on Senate (energy) Bills 7 and 9 – Patrice Gillespie**

Senate Bill #7 Passed with bi-partisan support, and almost unanimously. Bill #7 cuts emissions by 45% over 2005 levels by 2030. Also includes measures to help shore line communities to protect against sea level rise, and to assist with shared solar. Deep Energy Bureau will be charge of the 2030 targets. Peter Wrampe was happy to see bi-partisan support for a bill.

Senate Bill #9, was focused on planning for a clean energy future. It includes several provisions, including the opportunity for municipalities to apply for Net Metering however conditions of net-metering will not equal previous terms and may reduce demand for solar installations.

A lawsuit was filed May 15, against the Governor and Treasurer for raiding the Green Bank Funds, for improper use of ear-marked tax payer funds. Not yet clear what the plaintiffs are seeking in terms of

restitution. The State has given back \$10 Million of the \$175 Million that was raided. Plaintiffs would like the State to take the remaining \$165 Million from the States \$2 Billion Rainy Day Fund.

ACTION ITEM OWNER: N/A

**4. Update on Solar progress and new ZREC applications - Debra Thompson-Van**

On the original solar bid, 3 schools were included, Miller Driscoll (completed), Middlebrook (completed), WHS and then Cider Mill was added. Additionally, ZRECs have been approved for 2 more locations, Comstock and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Array on Middlebrook. The original contractor, Kingspan then left the state of CT and CT Greenbank has assigned another primary contractor, however the PPA contract signed is still in flux. Mark Robbins from MHR consulting and Chris Burney are meeting on May 17, to review their options.

5. The moratorium on net-metering has been lifted, but we do not yet know the Terms and Conditions of that. The cycle for medium and large ZRECs is about to open. We will have 14 days after a ZREC is approved to respond to the value of the ZREC in order to bond it.

The Board of Selectmen is meeting next week to evaluate the applications the two ZRECs for that were just awarded. We need to determine whether to ask Mark Robbins and Chris Burney to evaluate the town landfill, and ask the BOS to consider investing in it, given the changes to net metering.

Peter sees no downside to proposing the evaluation.

Glenn questioned whether we should also ask the BOS push for covered parking at Wilton High, similar to the installation at Ward High School in Fairfield. It not only powers the school, but it is aesthetically pleasing, and provides covered/shaded parking for sunny and rainy days. The car parking lot would be a Large ZREC with a different price point. Need to be at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  to the maximum size in order to start to see a return on the investment.

The increased cost of the panels and the reduced value of the ZRECs is making the financial viability more challenging. We have been invited by Sustainable Fairfield to tour their solar facilities; particularly their canopies. We should ask if any of the Selectmen would like to join. We should get the numbers from Fairfield; e.g., what was the cost, what is it producing, what was the time to payback?

When New Jersey was a leader in solar, a lot of universities were solarizing their parking lots.

Eileen expressed concerns about the costs (even with a payback) given that the town is taking on potentially too many expensive projects. We should investigate, and confirm whether the project is financially viable. How soon should we seek input from Fairfield? The next cycle of ZRECs is not finalized, but is imminent (likely middle of June). Need to know what we are applying for, and what meter number we are applying for.

Patrice questions whether we could we use the meter that powers the flood lights at Wilton High?

We unanimously agree that we should request investigate of both the landfill and the car ports. If they push back, we'll only investigate the potential landfill project.

ACTION ITEM OWNER: Debra to ask Chris and Mark to investigate both projects.

## 6. POCD update and preparation for POCD May 17 meeting – *Peter Wrampe*

Significant portion of the previous meeting was around financial viability of the town. Wilton is more highly bonded and in debt than the other communities.

### a. Other issues discussed:

Infrastructure, bicycle path.

Park and recreation – lots of opinions, but soft on planning/concrete next steps.

Limited discussion related to Energy Commission for Peter to participate in.

Art studio discussion got contentious.

Energy Efficiency accomplishments

Natural Gas Line Expansion

Telecommunications in Northern Wilton are woefully inadequate.

Interesting/nice discussion, but no action items.

### b. Town Center and Route 7 will likely be the hottest topics at the May 17 meeting. Historical Society is concerned about aesthetics, but from energy point of view, how do we modernize the town center while considering energy efficiency and energy resiliency.

#### i. Require Solar on all new buildings? Or require the analysis to be performed to prove the economics

##### 1. Minimally, require a level of energy efficiency (e.g. Stretch codes in Massachusetts)

#### ii. Require charging station for every X number of parking spaces?

ACTION ITEM OWNER: Peter to attend the POCD Meeting as WEC representative.

## 7. Update on Sustainable CT – *Patrice / Debra*

20 towns were approved

45 towns passed a resolution

Should we ask Jessica Sinclair to present to the BOS?

Debra made a connection with the Wilton Conservation Commission and first Selectman. Top concern raised was paperwork. Since WEC has already won a number of awards, Debra asked Lynn Stoddard, from Sustainable CT if they would create a fast path or grandfather clause. This request was denied.

We can join the program for access to the resources without seeking a category level-classification from Sustainable CT; Level 1, 2, or 3.

Patrice indicated she attended a meeting earlier that month and the Economic Development Commission also expressed concerns about the paperwork to Patrice.

Question: should we partner with WGG to agree to complete the paperwork, and then partner with other commissions? We can potentially allay their concerns related to paperwork if WEC/WGG are taking care of most of the paperwork.

ACTION ITEM OWNERS: Patrice, Debra, and Peter agreed to form an ad-hoc group to review past accomplishments and put together list of accomplishments that we should complete paperwork for past initiatives that will earn us points.

**8. WGG update – Peter**

Peter attended the meeting on May 5. Continued to discuss the success of the Zero Waste Fair. It only generated 1/3 of the profit of their typical fairs, but the educational value was strong, and they are preparing now for next year's event at WHH (similar to the March 2018 event).

Also requested \$200 from WGG to help improve our social media presence. WGG would like to know how the money will be spent and what return we expect before agreeing to give WEC the money. If Jim does not have the time to provide WGG the level of detail that they are looking for, perhaps WGG can engage new business to contribute to a marketing fund, given that the goal is to drive more interest and traffic to Wilton and specifically downtown.

ACTION ITEM OWNERS: Jim to determine whether he can provide more detail, or Peter may reiterate the information that he provided in the original request.

**9. Marketing and Communications – Jim**

Limited update in Jim's absence.

Group agreed that WEC members who are on Facebook, should "like" WEC-related content.

ACTION ITEM OWNER: N/A

**10. Members comment**

Patrice thanked Eileen for digging into Wilton's Zoning regulations that may be counterproductive to energy conservation and solar energy. Overall, Wilton seemed to have limited obstructions, based on the 1/3 analysis.

ACTION ITEM OWNERS: Gill and Patrice still need to perform their research.

**11. Public comment**

None.

**12. Adjournment: 8:37PM**