

**WILTON ENERGY COMMISSION**

TOWN HALL  
238 Danbury Road  
Wilton, CT 06897

203-563-0100



**Chairman**  
Peter Wrampe  
**Vice Chair/Secretary**  
Kevin Gardiner

Anna Marie Bilella  
Eileen Griffin  
Dave Heiden  
Glenn Hemmerle  
Rudi Hoefling  
Rich Hubli  
Nicole Murphy

**WILTON ENERGY COMMISSION**  
**Meeting, Tuesday May 21, 2019**  
**Comstock Community Center, Room 31**  
**7:00 pm**  
**Minutes**

**Attending WEC Members 8:** Peter Wrampe, Kevin Gardiner, Eileen Griffin, Glenn Hemmerle, Rich Hubli, Dave Heiden, Anna Marie Bilella, Rudi Hoefling

**Absent WEC Member 1:** Nicole Murphy

**Other Invited Guests/Attendees 2:** Leo Smith, Chris Burney

1. Peter Wrampe called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.
2. Agenda reviewed. Peter made a motion to add Chris Burney to the Agenda to provide status of the pending solar installations. Second by Glenn Hemmerle. (Passed 7-0, 1 late arrival)
3. Invited Guest: Leo Smith of Dimulator (subject: dimming of street lights)

Leo Smith provided packets and discussed the benefits and potential energy savings of replacing high-pressure sodium (HPS) street lights with dimmable lights. Towns can dim lights from midnight to 5:00 am by as much as 50% with no impact on visibility.

The cost of dimmable lights vs. HPS lights is virtually cost neutral today, but they have a shorter warranty, (usually 5 years vs. 10 years) which causes utility companies to choose HPS lights instead of dimmable lights.

While replacing HPS lights with dimmable lights can have a dramatic impact on cities and most towns, Wilton only has 100 streetlights and only 20% of them are HPS. As such, the cost savings would be less dramatic than it would be in a city like New Haven that has 11,000 streetlights.

Further, many of Wilton's lights are only a few years old and owned by Eversource. Eversource would require the town to pay the remaining value of any lights requested to be replaced that are less than 14 years old.

If WEC or the town would like to request Eversource to replace any existing lights with dimmable lights, we would need the Director of Public Works to write a letter to Eversource to request different lights, and/or the dimming of the lights up to 50% during a set time period (typically midnight to 5:00 am).

4. **Chris Burney: Status and Plans for pending solar installations.**

At the start Chris made two public service announcements:

PSA 1: Effective May 29 – July 25, there will be 48 fewer spaces at the train station due to DOT putting a water line in to serve the station, to fix an unhealthy well. Average 60 open spaces, so should not be an issue.

PSA 2: For the 2 weekends after Memorial Day, from 9pm-5am, the DOT is closing I-95 at Exit 9 to replace the overpass.

**Energy Savings at the existing installations**

- KWh savings at Miller Driscoll, from 3/20/2018 to May 2019, we have saved 364,650 kWh. At cost of 20 cents per kWh, that is a savings of approximately \$73,000.
- Middlebrook has currently saved 363,241. On track to save more than the goal of \$1.7MM over 20 years between the 2 schools plus Wilton High School.

**Wilton High School**

- Roof replacement was approved by the BOS on May 20, which will enable expanded solar installation.

Work will begin shortly after June 17, 2019, when school gets out. The roofer expects the roof replacement to take 6 weeks. The installation can occur while school is in session, so we believe the solar panels can be installed by mid-October, which is when the ZRECs expire.

- Chris is working through a plan to find a solar installer. He is impressed with Simpleray, but the final decision has not yet been made.

**Cider Mill**

Roofs at Cider Mill suffer from Old Age. Plan to submit budget requests for bonding of main roof at Cider Mill during the first Town Meeting in 2020. If we are generating energy by October of 2020, we will be able to maintain our ZREC. (Will follow a similar implementation plan as for WHS).

**Additional Notes:**

- Middle Brook and WHS will have enough open roof space to expand solar on both.
- Comstock is off the table due to shading concerns.

5. **Approval of minutes** of April 16, 2019 regular meeting. First, Peter Wrampe; Second, Rich Hubli; minutes approved unanimously, with no abstentions.

6. **Status of Action Items for March 19 & April 16, 2019 WEC Meetings:**

- i. **Group** – review page 2 of Peter’s POCD handout, and propose any edits/corrections.  
**May 21 Update:** Subject now moot given that POCD has been released.

- ii. **Glenn** to find out who the contractor for WHS Solar project will be now that Kingspan no longer exists.  
**May 21 Update:** Still TBD
- iii. **Group** – review POCD items that are connected to WEC (Lead or Support) and volunteer to be a Responsible Supporter on any of the items.  
**May 21 Update:** Subject now moot given that POCD has been released.

- iv. **Rich** – Arrange Dimulator Presentation at May 21 Meeting  
**May 21 Update:** Complete

- v. **Rich** – Provide first draft of write up of “Benefits of LED Lighting” to Kevin for eventual publication via GMW, the Wilton Bulletin, and the town website for the benefit of Wilton residents.  
**May 21 Update:** Completed and handed out to the WEC.

WEC recommended one edit at the end to include places to purchase LEDs, and Rich will send to Peter for submittal on his behalf to GMW, the Wilton Bulletin, and for posing on the WEC page on the town website.

- vi. **Kevin** – Update on Sustainable CT early submission. Did we receive feedback yet? If yes, how many more points do we need? Also confirm whether Garden Lots and/or the Norwalk River Trail are part of the initial 100 points submitted.  
**May 21 Update:**

Early points submitted (Garden Lots and Norwalk River Trail not part of the initial 100 points). No feedback yet.

We have secured 1-2 interns, and an Equity Coach to assist us in completing our Sustainable CT Submission by the August 30 deadline.

#### Collaboration with WGG

- Debra Thompson-Van is now an Advisory Member of Wilton Go Green,
- Kevin proposed that he should work with WGG to implement the Sustainable CT program in Wilton.
- Kevin would take the lead on the Certification process and formal Town Commission input to the town on regulations, etc, for Sustainable subjects in Collaboration with WGG.
- WGG would take the lead on Community outreach activities including outreach to other Town Commissions/Boards, other community entities such as Woodcock Nature center and Chamber of Commerce.
- Debra Thompson-Van, as an Advisory Member of WGG, will take the lead on this initiative, guided by the leadership of the WGG Board. Kevin would remain the lead on this for WEC and her primary point person. Both Debra and Kevin would remain the primary contacts to the Sustainable CT community.

WEC agreed that this arrangement and partnership would be beneficial and would strengthen our ability to complete the necessary requirements for Sustainable CT Bronze status by the August 30, 2019 deadline.

- vii. **Group** – review updated WEC website from the town. Provide Peter ideas on accomplishments of 2018 to include on the website.  
**May 21 Update:** Complete

- viii. **Peter** - confirm whether the Town will allow a WEC Dropbox--with limited and authenticated access--for file storage.

**May 21 Update:** The town will not allow this, due to FOIA concerns.

- ix. **Eileen** – put together information for Deb McFadden on putting together an RFP for the VW Settlement Fund. Will seek Deb’s input before reaching out to Chris Burney. Action item for next meeting.

#### 7. Continued discussion of Focus Areas of WEC for 2019.

- i. Peter – solar projects for individual homeowners. Specifically, Tesla solar panels.
- ii. Rudi – Push for students to use the bus. The town spends \$4MM/year whether the buses are used or not. Given that this will be difficult to enforce, we should consider a PR campaign instead of an enforcement campaign.
- iii. Dave – Microgrid investigation. Anna Marie is also interested, and Nicole may be interested as well.

#### 8. Marketing & Communications – Implicit discussion. Rich’s LED discussion. Additionally, Peter will look into a buyer consortium for fuel oil purchasing.

#### 9. Member comment – None.

#### 10. Public comment - None

#### 11. Adjournment: 8:39 PM

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#### Action Items from May 21, 2019 WEC Meeting:

- i. **Eileen** – put together information for Deb McFadden on putting together an RFP for the VW Settlement Fund. Will seek Deb’s input before reaching out to Chris Burney for possible areas of interest. Action item for next meeting.
- ii. **Kevin** - ensure everyone has access to Sustainable CT website, and determine how he can provide WEC with information on what has already been submitted.
- iii. **Rich** –to send “Benefits of LED lighting to Peter (**DONE**) for submittal on Rich’s behalf to GMW, the Wilton Bulletin, and for posing on the WEC page on the town website.

#### Zero Waste Fair 2020 Parking Lot:

- i. LED Bulbs
- ii. A Giveaway?
- iii. Encourage Solar Installers to setup tables in our vicinity