

# WILTON ENERGY COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES — SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 2010

530 DANBURY ROAD

9:00 AM — Meeting was called to order by R. Creeth, co-chair.

**Present:** Commissioners Karen Birck, Paula Byrdy, Richard Creeth, Patrice Gillespie, Bruce Hampson, Mike Lindberg. **Excused:** Hal Clark and Gail Lavielle.

## **ARRA Grant Update — Bruce Hampson:**

Bruce reported on the progress of the ARRA Municipal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. Mike Ahern of the DPW was designated as the point person to coordinate the process with the Town Department Leaders and the School Community. It is anticipated that the implementation will be completed within a year.

## **Go Green Committee [GGC] Discussion — Karen, Patrice, Paula and Bruce:**

Commissioners lauded the accomplishments of the Wilton Go Green Festival organizers and the success of the May 2nd event. The intent of that team to continue working on sustainability projects, including a 2011 festival in some form, was recognized and supported. Members of the GGC will be meeting in the coming weeks to determine the best path forward, and the Commission is ready to assist the GGC as they plan their future, which would be largely independent from WEC. The Commission will submit a letter to the GGC and to Board of Selectmen confirming this and making a few related recommendations regarding the best way for WEC and GGC to complement one another's work.

## **Neighbor-to-Neighbor Energy Challenge Grant — Mike Lindberg:**

An announcement was made on June 11th that a 14-town consortium of CT municipalities with populations of under 35,000 and with established energy-conservation leadership in each (Wilton, Weston, Westport and Ridgefield are the four towns selected in Fairfield County that are the beneficiaries) had collectively won a \$4.2 million grant from the national Dept. of Energy to help implement more energy conservation and energy efficiency in the residential sector.

[http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress\\_alerts.cfm/pa\\_id=352](http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=352) and

<http://www.ct.gov/governorrell/cwp/view.asp?A=3872&Q=461662>

CT's five representatives, including Jim Himes, played a part in winning this highly-competitive Federal grant. Earthmarkets <http://www.earthmarkets.com/Projects.html> and a number of other partners (including the Stamford-based Student Conservation Association of CT for some of the direct-to-homeowners contact work) will launch the project over the coming months. Participating towns' residents will vie for reducing the consumption of electricity as much as possible. Wilton's share of the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Energy Challenge grant will be \$250,000. Meeting this challenge and making the best use of the funds will require the cooperation of numerous community organizations. It is hoped that the Go Green Committee will want to help spearhead

this effort. A meeting for Earthmarkets president Kerry O'Neill of Norwalk to discuss the particulars with Wilton will be scheduled as soon as possible.

### **Mission and Future Initiatives of WEC;**

#### **Organization and Membership — R. Creeth, moderator:**

The Mission Statement of the Energy Commission was reviewed and there was unanimous agreement that it remains the appropriate mission in light of the accomplishments since founding and the opportunities and needs of the future. The Commission identified some of the initiatives and activities that the Commission should focus on and Bruce Hampson agreed to draft an outline of an action plan for review and approval at the next meeting.

The Commission will plan for a public meeting in the Fall to present such an outline, review accomplishments and solicit input from the town on what actions and initiatives we should take to fulfill our vision and mission.

This would also be an opportunity to welcome volunteers who would want to serve in some capacity to further those goals.

Communications: The Commission lauded Dona Pratt, the former Chair, for the creation of our new website. Communications was identified as a critical need and a search for someone to fill the responsibility is a priority goal.

WEC will meet next on July 14th to move forward on this planning, and to further discuss how WEC will advance its liaisons with regional and state agencies, non-profits and other local volunteer organizations.

Paula Byrdy and Richard Creeth will serve as acting co-chairs for WEC pending more appointments.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am, shortly after Gail Lavielle joined the group and was able to participate in some of the above discussion.

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