

TOWN OF WINDHAM
ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES

Monday December 9, 2013

Call to Order: the meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. *Commission members* in attendance were: Jean de Smet- Chair, Grace Adams, Alex Girshick, Liz Ostwald, and Corey Krohn. *Also present:* James Finger –staff

Citizens and Delegations: None

Minutes of November 25, 2013: Tabled.

Updates: **Benchmarking:** The data the town has is on forms marked “benchmark”, but it is not available electronically. They are asking us to scan it all in, so an intern can enter it. No one seems to have the old passwords to get into the program. But this is progress. **Thermal Imaging Grant:** Application was submitted on time. **Unit-Based Pricing Solid Waste Grant:** Jean consulted with DEEP/Jennifer Weymouth and decided to not apply, because we would need to get a vote on whether to change over to the UBP system by May, 2014 in order to get any payments. Since this is such a new idea to everyone, it will take some time to sell, if it is a good idea. Jennifer suggested we form a Solid Waste Advisory Committee. James Finger suggested the EC bring the idea to the C/OS/Ag Commission, and together we request a SWAC or other action. Agreed. **Charter Revision:** Motion made and Seconded to submit the following language to the Charter Revision Commission in anticipation of our work on forming a Municipal Utility: XX. A Municipal Electric Utility with authority to purchase, generate and/or transmit electricity may be formed. The Utility, similar to or combined with the Water and Sewer Utilities, will be governed by an Electric Utility Commission (EUC) appointed by the Town Council. The Utility shall have all the powers of such as provided by the General Statutes and other administrative agencies of the state of CT which have powers to regulate such a utility, except as otherwise provided by Ordinance. The Electric Utility Commission shall have the right to negotiate legal, financial and other services as required. The EUC shall have the power to incur and approve expenditures and to revise budget line items during the fiscal year. Additional responsibilities of the EUC shall include, but not be limited to rate setting, hiring of outside contractors and/or consultants, development of budget, review of expenses, review of Utility operations.

Application for staff support from Clean Water: Jean spoke with Roger Smith, who indicated they are looking for ideas that are replicable in other communities, and complete projects. He liked the idea of the Thermal Imaging Grant, because that was new, but he also has experience with SBEA. Either would build on the N2N and Solarize outreach we've been doing. We had lots of ideas of help that we need: SBEA, Thermal Imaging, Hydro, Micro-Grid, ZREC solar panel farm, municipal utility, and/or a plan to put this all together. Jean will speak with Roger again, and apply.

A Motion was made and Seconded to call CCM and ask them to help us to look for suitable locations for a ZREC solar panel farm.

After discussion, no action taken on investigating hydro potential in our rivers. EC members would like to speak with the Windham Water Commission about the potential, and tour their facility.

Next meeting will be Dec. 23rd at 6.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean de Smet, Chair

RECEIVED FOR RECORD 1/10/2014
AT 12:00 PM
ATTEST Patricia P. Spman TOWN CLERK