

WINDHAM ENERGY COMMISSION

Minutes for Monday, January 11, 2016

Windham Town Hall, 2nd floor Meeting Room, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT

Voting Members Present: Elizabeth Ostwald, Jean de Smet, Grace Adams, Richard Bloomer,

Voting Members Absent: Corey Krohn, Tom Markland, Chris Mezzarone **Voting Members Excused:**

None **Guests Present:** None. **Staff Present:** James Finger, Town Planner; Joe Gardner, Town

Engineer; Dagmar Noll, Clerk **Public Present:** None

1. **Call to order** - Chair de Smet called the meeting to order at 6:03pm
2. **Citizens & Delegations** - None.
3. **Welcome to new members, Chris Mezzarone and Richard Bloomer**
Chair de Smet introduced Richard Bloomer and welcomed him to the Commission. Chris Mezzarone -Not present
4. **Review of Notes of September 14th, Minutes of September 28, 2015, and December 14, 2015**
J. de Smet requested that a handout noted in the September 28, 2015 minutes be filed with the minutes. For the minutes of 12/14/15, J. de Smet clarified that item#10 should say "No one new can be added to the Virtual NET metering list at this time, but we want to be added to the list of towns available to be contacted by contractors who want to install solar panels on municipal properties." The minutes of 9/14/2015, 9/28/2015 and 12/14/2015 were accepted as amended by consensus.
5. **Engineer's Status Reports**
 - A) **Progress with Benchmarking**
Benchmarking has been set up. The next step is training and a presentation to the Commission.
6. **Town Planner Report**
 - A) **Grant(s) for Electric Vehicle Fleet & Charging stations, website**
J. Finger noted that he is handling fleet acquisition and J. Gardner is handling the charging stations at Town Hall and Crosbie Parking Lot. The deadline for getting this set up is May 1, 2016. No update on the web site. Discussion about solar lighting and the potential for a full lighting audit.
7. **Green Circle Sustainability Award Nominations**
Discussion about which Windham entities or projects might qualify. None currently. The Commission will review again next year.
8. **Misc: ethics ordinance, other updates (solar on landfills, geothermal)**
J. Bellano put Windham on the list of towns interested in being contacted regarding solar panel installation on landfills and other sites. J. de Smet reported on geothermal. The Commission is interested in hearing more from Phil Rawlings, Director of Geothermal services at Trison Construction. J. de Smet will ask J. Gardner to approach Rawlings. In discussion about shared solar, the commission agreed to host a public information session with Mansfield and Coventry
9. **Next steps**
The Commission will monitor usage now that benchmarking is complete. Brief discussion about Energy and Resiliency Plan. The Repair Cafe is this Saturday from 10-2pm.
10. **Citizens and Delegations**
None.
11. **Adjourn 7:31pm**