

Windham Energy Commission

October 28, 2013 Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:41 PM. *Commission members* in attendance were: Jean de Smet- Chair, Grace Adams, Liz Ostwald, and Corey Krohn.

Also present: James Finger –staff

Citizens and Delegations – none

Accept Minutes of September 23, 2013 - Corey Krohn made a motion to approve the September 23rd meeting minutes, and Liz Ostwald seconded the motion; all voted in favor to approve with one abstention from Alex as he was not at the meeting.

Small Business Energy Advantage The Commission discussed the need to identify businesses in Town to contact in order to alert them to this program. Liz Ostwald explained her efforts to narrow down the list of Businesses to contact from the Assessor's Commercial and Personal Property lists. Commission members discussed the types of businesses that would likely use a lot of energy. Among these – Laundromats, Restaurants – especially Fast Food Restaurants; Gas Stations, parking lot lights in Shopping Centers, and possibly Tanning Salons were identified as those that may have high energy costs.

C-PACE outreach Planning - James Finger explained the Town's C-PACE Marketing efforts events – several people came to listen to hear details of the financing from CEFIA (Clean Energy Finance Investment Authority); but few property owners came. He said the Chamber is working on targeting the larger businesses in Town, and that in talking with CEFIA representatives – they feel that we are making progress and encouraged us to continue. CL&P also came to talk about the Small Business Advantage Program – which is geared toward businesses rather than property owners – as is the case with the C-PACE program. The Chamber will try to schedule another Breakfast/Dinner meeting for Businesses to learn of the programs.

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Updates: Micro-grid, & Benchmarking – Jean said she had been contacted by Rick Lanz of DIRP who had been involved in the Town’s Micro-grid proposal. She said he described Connecticut’s efforts as ‘exciting & innovative’. She said she was still trying to find out what is happening with the Town’s proposal, and Rick said he wanted to include the Energy Commission in future communications.

With respect to Benchmarking – Jean alerted the Commission to an up-coming webinar to discuss the topic, and urged members to sign up and listen in. She passed along the message that she received in an e-mail.

“Congratulations Town of Windham!

As one of our Clean Energy Communities your community have been selected to participate in our Clean Energy Communities Municipal Bench Marking Pilot Program. The Webinar will be aired on November 6, 2013 at 10:00 - 11:00am. During this Webinar we will introduce the CL&P Technical Assistance Project, the participants and an overview of our schedule. The webinar will discuss bench marking, entering municipal energy data, utility support & creating a municipal action plan (MAP).

Both James and the Town Engineer - Joe Gardner will be attending the day long workshop on Nov. 13th at CL&P Hq., and James said he would be listening to the Webinar in his office – if Commission members wanted to join him.

Citizens and Delegations - none

Adjournment The Commission adjourned at approximately 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted- James Finger