

WINDHAM ENERGY COMMISSION  
Minutes -Monday February 24, 2014

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:22 PM. Those present were: Jean deSmet - Chair, Grace Adams, Elizabeth Ostwald, and Corey Krohn. Also present was James Finger -staff, and guests Erin O'Neill, and Addison Weinstein of Next Step Living.

Citizens and Delegations - none

**Thermal Imaging Project**

The Chair said she was waiting for an answer on a fixed per watt price from Sagewell's Solar contractor. The advantage of having a fixed price in Solarize was that smaller jobs would cost less, but Mr. D'Sousa said there would be an "adder." Sagewell is committed to using Astrum, as they had the best prices, and a long warranty. Astrum agreed that they would try to hire local contractors for other parts of the work - like site preparation or roof work etc. As soon as the solar part is confirmed, the site will be up.

Erin O'Neill explained that Next Step Living (NSL) has an agreement with the corporate office of Stop & Shop and will start tabling next week. They will ask for e-mail addresses, and will send the link to the property owner and follow up with them to help channel leads to Sagewell. Mr. Finger suggested that NSL have a sign that identifies that the Thermal Imaging program is for Windham residents who own their home. Ms. O'Neill will make a poster of the thermal image of heat loss that Sagewell had provided. No objections to NSL marketing the program on behalf of the Energy Commission, and using our name in their marketing.

Ms. O'Neill explained that she works with Terri at Interreligious Eco-Justice Network (IREJN) who works throughout the State to help religious groups interconnect their faith with environmental activism, and that she has some contacts in the Windham religious community. A general discussion ensued as to local contacts, and generally the Commission was favorably inclined to try to promote the energy programs through this network, and look forward to meeting with Terri to discuss this outreach effort further.

Discussion also ensued about other outreach efforts such as with schools, banks and employers. Ms. O'Neill said that they (NSL) were willing to assist the Commission for an extended period of time to implement its goals. Corey Krohn asked if there were any commercials on TV promoting energy conservation, and Ms. O'Neill said that CEFIA does have this as part of their marketing campaign. Clean Water Action and Sagewell are willing to help with school outreach.

Liz Ostwald agreed to be the point person for the thermal imaging marketing.

### **Micro-grid:**

The Chair explained that the Town Council supports Round 1 and set a Town Meeting date for March 11<sup>th</sup>, but the Board of Finance didn't have a quorum and won't meet again until after the date set for the Town meeting; so they'll have to set another Town meeting date - and the project will remain on hold.

Next, the Chair informed the Commission that DERP - the Town's Micro-grid consultant will be at Eastern to talk with the Institute for Sustainable Energy about Round two of the Micro-grid. There will be a 3 day conference on Micro-grids in Hartford (Feb. 27-29) - mostly for engineers and technical people as well as attorneys. On Thursday, the Governor and Dan Esty (DEEP Commissioner) will speak, followed by DERP, Mike Licata (Emergency Management Coordinator for the Town) and the Chair, talking about the Safe Havens Micro-grid for Schools.

Corey Krohn then asked why the town's funding request is for \$1.8 million if the State is going to fund most of it. James explained that the Town has to budget the full expense, and then seek reimbursement for the qualified expenses after completion, and that most grants are like this.

Chair recommended the EC write an op-ed to make the Commission's support public - but we have to wait another month. She also announced that Lynn Stoddard (from DEEP and the Mansfield Energy Commission) just took the job at ISE as Bill Leahy resigned. Corey asked what is ISE, and what do they do? The Chair explained it is the Institute for Sustainable Energy, and they used to do Benchmarking. Bill Leahy had done some legislative research and lobbying, and helped Bridgeport come up with a green jobs program.

### **Other**

- Roger Smith -Clean water offered assistance with the RFP, TI marketing (through Jessica Bergman), and strategic planning and community inclusion (through Melissa Everett)
- Legislation for Solar Gardens to be presented Wednesday Feb 26th in New Haven. No Energy Commission members are available to attend.
- need to ck w/Sagewell on length of Service after marketing for Solar ends June 30th - said they will continue to offer thermal images to residents...
- marketing - Jessica - cable - John Murphy, and radio spots etc.
- The idea of forming a Regional Energy Commission was discussed briefly.

Finally - the Minutes of February 10, 2014 were approved.

Citizens and Delegations - none

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted by James Finger and Jean de Smet