

WINDHAM ENERGY COMMISSION  
D R A F T - Minutes -Monday March 10, 2014

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM. Present: Jean deSmet - Chair, Grace Adams, Elizabeth Ostwald, Alex Girshick, and Corey Krohn. Also present was James Finger -staff, and guests Erin O'Neill, and Addison Weinstein of Next Step Living and Joe Gardner, Town Engineer.

Citizens and Delegations - none

Corey Krohn made a motion to approve the Minutes of February 24, 2014 meeting as amended, and Alex Girshick seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to move the bid for the letter for Thermal Imaging to the top of the agenda.

**Thermal Imaging Project** updates. The proposed printing the Thermal Imaging letter to residents, and mail processing using money from Community Innovation Grant (balance of \$4,086.73) awarded to the Town back in 2009.

The following quotes were given for this service:

- Gulemo - \$1738.17 - all inclusive price
- Staples - \$1088.85 machine folding, sheets of labels and mail sealers (Town labor needed for apply labels and mail sealers, and run through postage meter to be paid at Town's rate of 48 cents/letter X 3477= \$1668.96 for total cost of \$2757.81 (not including labor)

Corey Krohn made the motion to award the contract to Gulemo Printing with Elizabeth Ostwald seconded the motion; and all voted in favor.

**Bright Idea Grant** (\$10,000) The Chair announced that the Town was notified of a grant award, and that there will be an award ceremony in Hartford March 24, 2014 from 10 AM-Noon. The grant must be used for energy-saving projects only (such as performance grade energy audit, new technology), and not for clean energy system installations.

Joe Gardner was invited to share his ideas and plans for energy-saving projects. Joe is looking at upgrading the energy systems at the Windham Textile Museum. The Dugan building is going through a lot of oil, and he would like to switch them over to gas; they want to renovate the building to use for meeting space to use it more efficiently. Joe hopes to insulate the building this year, and fix up the old windows to reduce energy leaks with the money the Town has allocated to energy conservation for the past few years. Also, the main building of the Textile Museum has an old gas furnace, the new units are very compact and achieve a 96% efficiency rating, and there are additional incentives available from Yankee Gas. The Bright Ideas grant could be used to fund the new furnaces.

Corey Krohn suggested looking into a product he uses for insulating the plaster walls - Inso-fast can be applied to the wall surface with glue and will provide a vapor barrier as well, and they have chase-ways for electrical wiring and plastic ribbing placed 16 inches on center so you can then apply drywall for a final wall surface.

The Town has budgeted \$160,000 for next year, which will be used to do the Museum project. He added that he thought this might be the last year that the Town Manager had planned to put money into the energy line item. Joe explained that he also is planning to bid out the energy control systems for the Public Safety complex, and expects it to cost around \$90,000. In addition, he reported that the Library needs to replace its HVAC system as it isn't working. In other buildings, the town may donate the Kramer School to Eastern, who would likely knock it down, and we would just keep the Gym. If that happens, then we could put in a boiler a fraction of the size that we have there now. Kramer

building is a big energy user, but its getting better. They removed the old bleachers which blocked some huge radiators and disconnected every other one to reduce the heat as they were leaving the windows open during the winter. They've insulated, and installed a pool cover. Joe explained that we have a shared use agreement with the School, and Wayne Donaldson takes care of the small repairs - but if its a big item, then Joe has to take care of it. Joe has been instructed to not make any major investments in Kramer.

To be considered for Bright Ideas: Textile Museum energy projects, funding some of the items for the Micro-grid that were ineligible for that grant, a updated performance grade energy audit of some buildings, installing more efficient lighting - like LED's, other ideas welcome.

### **Thermal Imaging Project**

Suggestions were made to clarify the information in the letter to residents about rising electric rates, and where to find the information on one's electric bill. The deadline for the Solar incentive was set as **May 12?**, with the understanding it will be extended until June 30<sup>th</sup>. Letters to Solarize participants for the upcoming Solar Workshop will be sent separately.

NSL asked EC members to reach out to local banks and businesses. It was suggested that they send us a template for an email that members could simply forward with their recommendation.

NSL agreed to pay Windham \$25 for every HES signup they get during the Thermal Imaging campaign from our outreach efforts.

The vendors that Sagewell is using are: HES—Next Step Living, Lantern Energy and New England Smart Energy, HES-IE—NESM. They have been invited to attend our meetings, and to participate in the Solar Workshop on April 9.

**Clean Energy Communities benchmarking** – James, Wayne, Grace and Jean attended a Technical Assistance workshop where we were surprised to learn that they didn't have much of the energy information needed. We also learned that we are behind on the Municipal Action Plan. This grant ends in April, so we need to concentrate on this right now. Grace offered to help with data entry.

### **Micro-grid:**

The Chair sent a letter to the Board of Education supporting the Micro-grid, and offered assistance from the Energy Commission. Next will be meeting with the Board of Finance, and then the Town meeting.

Contact BOF members to encourage them to vote in favor.

Mike Licata and Wayne Donaldson presented at a conference in Manchester.

Rick Lank and Rebecca Rush from DERP Tech, and Grace and Jean participated in a meeting at ECSU with Lynn Stoddard and Laurel Kohl of the Institute for Sustainable Energy. Laurel is bringing a "Green Leaf" program to secondary schools to encourage energy efficiency and conservation. Windham schools have not signed up, but we agreed to work together on making contacts in our schools for Thermal Imaging and Green Leaf programs.

Liz, Tim D'Souza, Laurel, Jessica, Jean, James had a conference call to outline marketing for the thermal imaging. Laurel will share info on our workshops with faculty at Eastern.

**Legislation:** Jean wrote testimony endorsing HB 5412, An Act Concerning Shared Clean Energy Facilities, and went to the legislature to testify, but had to leave after 4 hours.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted by James Finger and Jean de Smet