

Windham Energy Commission Minutes June 10, 2013

Call to Order: Those in Attendance were: Mike Altshul, Grace Adams, Jean de Smet, and Chris Vials. Also present were Kate Donnelly, and James Finger,

Overview of Meeting: The first hour of the meeting was spent working out nuts-and-bolts details of upcoming solarize events (chiefly canvassing)

Minutes: The Minutes of May 13th meeting were approved

Solarize

- Willimantic Farmer's Market not well attended; one of the vendors said it's never well-attended this time of year; WIC food stamps not available for Farmer's Market yet (this starts in July); so, we'll skip next 2 Willy Farmer's Markets in terms
- Coventry's farmers market is the 23rd; Chris and CTECH will be tabling (need to get HES sign up sheet from Kate)
- we should CTECH to send postcards to everyone that's on the fence who has expressed interest in solar (Kate will do this)
- Windham is much speedier with solar permitting than Mansfield
- **Third Thursday.** third Thursday; June 20th; for its N2N activities, Kate bringing a big check and presenting it to Town at Third Thursday; big check is symbolic of actual money that is being sent to Windham by CL&P for N2N activities; 7:30pm; Energy Commission members will be on stage; we need to arrange for refreshments (Hosmer credits, Toni's pizza, and cupcakes – most of this will be purchased at the event itself); we will use money that we've been allocated by N2N; Kate will order cupcakes, Jean will talk to Hosmer
- **Mike's Mapping Program.** Mike created a sample list of homes/owners/addresses in our area that can be used by canvassers; newer neighborhoods would be better (less tree coverage)
- Mansfield Ave, Aspen St, Cherry Lane, Victory Lane, Jack Henry, Insalaco; Mike will provide lists for these areas and delete renters; he will email the lists to the canvassers by mid-week
- this Saturday the 15th (10-1); meeting point: Oxbow and South
- this Sunday the 16th (noon-3pm); High St and Ridgewood
- Jean has flyers; we need to get HES sign ups; Kate will put out a call to the Solar Ambassadors; Jean will do one day;
- Willy Farmer's Market on the 29th; this will be the jump off point for canvassing; people will get sheets there

Clean Energy Communities Municipal Pledge

- Town needs to pass a resolution (not an ordinance) to sign on; CEFIA and CEEF (CT Energy Efficiency Fund, administered by CL&P) want all the communities to sign onto a new pledge; we signed onto one before

- penalty for non-compliance is nothing; but signing onto pledge makes you eligible for \$20K/year in grants for participating in clean energy programs
- this is why we need bench-marking; Town buildings/schools count
- Commission passed motion to ask Town Council to pass a resolution committing town to participate in Clean Energy

CPACE Marketing Grant

- James submitted a proposal to CEFIA (with help of Linda Riquier) for a marketing grant which will be pitched to commercial properties that qualify
- James explained that he learned that banks weren't willing to subordinate (i.e., consent to allow the CPACE lien to go ahead of the mortgage on the property)
- CEFIA needs to talk to the banks so that they will allow their mortgagees to participate in the financing; CEFIA needs to assure banks that they will not lose their entire loans if someone forecloses (which they won't)

Community Innovation Grant

- The Commission agreed to use our Community Innovation Grant money to hire someone to do benchmarking of municipal buildings to qualify for other grants;
- we have \$4000 to do this, but we have other moneys available from other grants
- Kate Donnelly said to contact Laura Worthington (Institute of Sustainable Energy at ECSU) who can be hired to do this; or she can make recommendations

Municipal Utility Discussion

- Jean said that Celtic did an Energy Audit in 2008; tons of data that would allow us to prioritize going forward. This could help us identify feasibility and opportunities for municipal, renewable utilities
- According to the Town Engineer, we have \$160K to invest in clean energy every year from a reserve capital improvement fund
- this is a discussion we want to take up again after solarize campaign is done