

# Windham Energy Commission

## July 22, 2013 Minutes

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:03 PM. **Commission members** in attendance were: Jean de Smet, Grace Adams, Alex Girshick, and Liz Ostwald. **Also guests present:** Michael Licata- Fire Marshal, Wayne Donaldson- BOE Director of Building and Grounds, Joseph Gardner – Town Engineer, J. Finger – staff, and Madeline Priest Lead Energy Organizer - Clean Water Action: [www.cleanwateraction.org](http://www.cleanwateraction.org)

**MICROGRID Guest Speaker** Michael Licata- Fire Marshal & Wayne Donaldson – Board of Education Facilities Mgr.

C-CAT started process with a Local Energy Assurance Planning grant in 2009. In 2013, \$50million was set aside by the State for micro- grids. Town of Windham with DERP Technologies consulting has submitted for phase 2 which is worth \$ 1-1.2million. It is possible to make smaller grids or smaller “islands,” 6-7 possible locations were considered. Sweeney and Middle School were chosen for the microgrid because CL & P still has issues with crossing any roads with private power lines. State is looking for a showcase project. Windham is a possibility. There will be \$30million for the next round of micro-grids, so if we don't get this grant, we'll just apply again.

**PPA/ Z-REC** Guest Speaker Alex Fox (C-TEC Solar).

PPA (Power Purchase Agreement) is a third party (C-TEC and unknown) who would own the town's systems and resell energy back to the town. They would pay installation costs. The terms would be 20years with a 10year buyout option. This would be limited to one megawatt size system per meter. We would get a 1 to 1 ratio per credit. Town would pay the third party 15-20% less than market rate per kilowatt. Alex will find out whether it must be on town owned property. Old gravel pit on Rte 32 in South Windham possible site for an array, but it is still in use. Providers would pay for a new roof on town buildings if you put on a PV array, but would increase the rate the town would pay. We need to research if we need a bid process with the town. More research needed.

Z-REC (Zero Emission Renewable Energy Credit).State campaign will fund \$8million per year for 15 years. The \$8 million will be broken down into three size systems: 1-100k, 100-250k, 250-1 megawatt. Based on a bid auction/reverse auction, any bids that are too high will not get funded.

**SOLARIZE UPDATE** Guest Speaker Alex Fox (C-TEC Solar).

Reported that C-TECSOLAR has 59 contracts with Mansfield & Windham worth 354kw. Typically, with Solarize 40% are projects signed in the last week, so they expect more sign-ups. Around 16 signed in Windham. Keep telling people and still canvas. Price change in August likely due to increased inverter cost. Solarize ends July 31, but anyone who is in negotiations will likely be given the Solarize price when they sign. C-TEC is not backlogged with prospects, but working OT to keep up.

Alex Fox confirmed that there probably would be an increase due to the increased cost of solar modules which have gone up an additional 15% in international markets; but they would try to honor their tier #1 pricing for current customers.

### **Clean Energy Communities:**

Joe Gardner reported ... Windham signed up as a Clean Energy Community. Allows us to apply for grants between \$5-\$15k per 100 points you earn. We made a 20% pledge for reduction in energy consumption and 20% use of renewable energy in town. We need to start benchmarking: town buildings, town hall, public works, library, etc. and may need to use some of the funds we've earned for that. Joe Gardner said that all he needed to do was send in a request to CL&P and Yankee Gas to ask them to provide a history of utility use to document/benchmark our buildings – but he wasn't sure about schools as the owner has to submit the request (may need to contact School Supt. Or Wayne Donaldson). We need to include all municipal buildings – including the schools, Public Works, Water & Sewer Depts.

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Solar light for Memorial Park will be installed when the funding is received.

Joe Gardner reported that we're saving about \$13,000 per year on the energy improvements we've made so far. He said we could look bundling projects – like the Kramer Gym where they have old lights and heating system. He added that he has a meeting with New England Control to install automated controls, new furnaces, Air conditioners, and windows. Currently they have an old compressor in the basement. Also, he will be working on the Library as they have a problem with their air conditioner which has been in place since 1992 – its broken down, and their front windows are single pane glass. Joe said he's also working with Yankee Gas to replace the heating systems at the Water Department – as they are currently using oil

Jean asked about going through Celtic's recommendation. Joe G. responded that Celtic didn't really have any specific recommendations; they just had a list of items, and he's been working off their list.

Madeline Priest explained that there are two different tracks with Clean Energy Community Grants. One is Clean Energy (installing solar etc) and the more solar in town the more solar panels the town earns for municipal buildings.

The other track is energy efficiency (energy assessments, insulation, etc) and the more energy assessments and improvements made (not including solar) the town earns points to get a Bright Ideas grant.

More info on that program can be found at:

<http://www.energizect.com/government-municipalities/programs/Clean-Energy-Communities-UP/>

### **C-PACE Update**

James Finger reported that he attended the kick-off meeting this afternoon (July 22<sup>nd</sup>), and that we were awarded \$3,000; everyone was pared back because of the number of communities involved. They just want us to do address/contact verification and to have events. We're going to have the Chamber do this, as they have more experience with events. We'll also be doing mailings, and we need to do some articles in newsletter and radio spots.

### **CLEAN WATER ACTION**

Guest Speaker Madeline Priest.

Clean Water is offering support for Committee. Will help us set up short term and long term goals for committee and the town. We will be doing strategic planning for our next meeting.

**Newsletter articles** – James asked for some energy articles to put in the Windham Journal as the deadline is approaching at the end of next week.

**Discussion and possible action to change meeting times for the summer** – A general discussion ensued as to when Commission members could meet, as the Commission was having difficulty getting enough people to make a quorum. After a brief discussion – it was decided to start at 6 PM in August.

**Approval of Minutes** - Grace Adams made a motion to approve the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, and Jean deSmet seconded the motion; all voted in favor to approve with two abstentions from Alex Girshik and Liz Ostwald.

Respectfully submitted  
Alex Girshik &  
James Finger - staff