

**TOWN OF WINDHAM**  
**ENERGY COMMISSION**  
Minutes of Monday September 22, 2014

**Call to Order:** The Chair officially called the meeting to order at 7 PM. Those present were: Jean de Smet - Chair, Elizabeth Ostwald, Grace Adams, and Corey Krohn. Guests included Patricia Bresnahan to discuss web site development. Also present was James Finger as staff.

**Citizens and Delegations** - None

**TOPICS:**

- Community Innovation Grant Program - Web page development, and event planning
- NSL Updates about outreach, & Ductless mini-splits
- Micro-Grid update
- EV Charging Station Electric Charging Station grant

**Community Innovation Grant Program** - The Commission discussed use of grant funds for the development of a web site with Patricia Bresnahan. Various options were considered, and Pat said she would send information to James to get started with GoDaddy - to establish a web site name; then she will develop the site for the Commission. Discussion on content ensued to include links for energy conservation programs, terminology, financing, and rates. Looking at web sites of other Towns was mentioned as examples of good information to include. The Commission will send content to Pat to put together in a mock-up of the Windham Energy site.

Next Commission members discussed coordinating the content and guests for the Nov 10th ambassador's event. The event would be for 6 PM Testimonials could come from Commission members who have solar or who have taken advantage of the Home Energy Solutions program. Other guests might include those appointed to the Micro-grid committee, the school facilities Manager, and the Water Department.

The Chair referred to Mellissa's summary from last meeting where she mentioned including awards, door prizes, quiet (recorded) background music, and posters; but we're not doing or pens, or well designed calendars that people can put up with fall events - that's too ambitious.

However, we do want to schedule house meetings with people afterwards to talk about people's experiences and to learn what people think. We will have posters, and collect old press releases (James mentioned his drop box has a lot of stuff we can use). Jean said that maybe one poster with some nice press releases would be good - she urged that Commission members look at this and decide at the next meeting.

With regard to the mailing, Jean asked James to include mailing to contractors who have done the work on homes and businesses - and to look up contractors in the area for solar, insulation, and ductless mini-splits on the Energize CT web site

**Next Step Living (NSL)** The Chair read in the report that Erin O'Neill of NSL sent to update the Commission on their progress to date. Erin provided the highlights on the following page.

## **NSL EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Next Step Living has seen tremendous success so far in Windham and Willimantic. Below, you'll find a brief outline highlighting what we see as being the greatest impacts we've had in town to date.

Highlights:

- Since March, 2014 NSL has generated 121 HES leads in Windham; 68
- have scheduled, 35 have been completed
- 7 insulation installs have been scheduled, 5 have been completed
- Since March, 2014 NSL has generated 384 DMS leads
- 278 DMS Leads (72% of total DMS leads generated) have already
- scheduled their appointment
- 175 DMS assessments have been completed since March
- 45 DMS contracts have been signed since March; 27 were signed in
- July or August
- Collectively, the households who have taken action in the Town of
- Windham has saved an estimated total of \$11,608.00 per year
- Residents in the town of Windham have reduced greenhouse gas
- emissions by 60.48 metric tons - that's like taking 12.7 passenger
- vehicles off the road for an entire year, or 141 barrels of oil.

## **NEXT STEPS**

In the coming months, we have opportunities to continue coordinated outreach within Windham to make an even bigger energy and savings impact:

- Windham Afterschool Programs to gain access to scheduled events through afterschool programs and parent/teacher nights
- Other Outreach
  - Made contact with Willimantic Lions Club rep;
  - working to schedule presentation at upcoming monthly meeting

**Minutes:** Elizabeth Ostwald made a motion to approve the Minutes of Aug. 25th and September 8, 2014, and Corey Krohn seconded the motion; all present voted in favor and the minutes were approved.

**Micro-Grid** - Corey Krohn said that the Committee will be issuing a short list of items that they will be looking for quotes in the RFP for a project developer - at risk. Also, they discussed seeking a modification from DEEP on the scope of the project to make it simpler to build and operate an AC configuration instead of a DC operation.

**Electric Vehicle Charging Station:** James explained that we were awarded the 100% funding for the Electric Vehicle Charging station, and he is working with Ray's Electric to get it installed in the back of the Town Hall. The Town may have to pick up some of the ineligible costs, but he will check to see if the Bright Ideas grant will also pay for some of the cost.

**Adjourned:** The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:02 PM  
*Respectfully submitted by James Finger*