

Wallingford Energy Conservation Commission
Minutes of January 20, 2009
Meeting in Room 315, Town Hall
45 South Main Street
Wallingford, CT 06492

MINUTES

Co-chair Brodinsky called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. In attendance were: Commissioners Pursell, Bradley, LeGrand, Lynch, Mushinsky, and Smith. Also in attendance was special guest Roger Smith, from the West Hartford energy conservation committee.

Roger Smith distributed a draft policy/action plan for WH. He discussed the activities of his energy group in West Hartford. He said WH has had a good experience with Energy Solve, to handle energy bill paying and cost analysis. Other programs included a school energy savings competition, an energy-measuring device for the library to lend like a book could be lent. He discussed the progress of other towns and offered himself as a resource and an invitation to collaborate (1-860-232-6232). The West Hartford energy group has an energy conservation public information function. This was discussed; as yet, we do not have enough people on the committee to execute such a plan. But, it is still part of the larger program.

Brodinsky passed out materials provided by Don Roe, on the Town's prior investigation into possible use methane gas from the landfill. Ben Martin agreed to look it over and report.

Mike also passed out the list of town properties in response to a request made last year.

Mike reported on his meeting with Juliet Burdelski, Grants Administrator for Meriden. He passed out materials obtained. Meriden has bought fuel-efficient cars with state grants paying the "differential." In her opinion the odds were very good (in the past, anyway) to get a grant if a town applied. The state's Dept. of Admin. Services has pre-negotiated prices of different makes and models of fuel-efficient cars, trucks, and diesel retrofits. The process is, very generally: The town applies for the grant; when notice of approval is received, the town agrees to the terms of the grant; it makes the purchase at full price; the town provides proof of purchase; and the state grant is then received defraying part of the cost of the car/truck. Mike passed out Meriden's grant application from 2008 as a sample.

Mike also talked to the Clean Cities coordinator, Lee Grannis, for the New Haven area. He is an official resource for area towns for programs on clean fuels and clean cars. He will come to speak and a date was agreed to. **(NOTE: The date of the meeting is now Feb 12, 2009 at 6:30 at the Library.)** Lee will more fully explain the opportunities.

Mike will invite Don Roe (Town's program planner/grants coordinator) and Henry McCully (Director of Public Works) who said that he needed two new trucks. The group also had a

long discussion on diesel retrofits, and biofuel retrofits. The state has a master contract for biofuels, too.

Mike also describes his investigation into natural gas cars and natural gas fueling stations. Meriden put in a small fueling station. If we are interested, Mike has the name and contact info for the industry leader in this area. There was no consensus as to whether there was interest.

The school benchmarking was still work in progress.

Commission Mushinsky suggested that we see what other CMEEC towns are doing, if they are ahead of us. Roger indicated that because of CMEEC advantages, other towns haven't done much, except for Norwich because they have natural gas as part of its PUC like our Electric Division.

Mike Brodinsky, Temp Rec. Sec.

Draft minutes were prepared on 1/30/09
by Mike Brodinsky
