

WALLINFORD ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

May 28, 2009

6:30 p.m. Room #315 Town Hall
45 South Main Street
Wallingford, CT 06492

Minutes

The meeting of the Wallingford Energy Conservation Commission convened at 6:37 p.m.

In attendance were: Mike Brodinsky; Bill Pursell; Ben Martin; Darren Novak; Mary Williams; Sharon Mooney; and Bruce Blakey.

Mike reviewed developments: Darren, Mike B., Mike Cassella from CMEEC, George Adair from PUC, Rick Henderschott from PUC, and Bill Leahy from the Institute of Sustainable Energy met on May 7. The final benchmarking report prepared by Bill L. was presented then and Mike B. presented it to the committee. It showed some very inefficient buildings and lots of potential for savings.

The consensus on May 7 was that the school building energy conservation concept needed a consultant, to “own the responsibility” for the project. We didn’t have the expertise in house. This person would perform the energy audits and find the money (grants, etc.) and give advice on payback periods and upfront costs (subject to contract prices). Mike Cassella offered to provide a form of an RFP to find such a firm; and to provide a list of firms with whom he has had experience, who does this sort of thing. That information was received by Mike B and Darren.

Bill Leahy believes that time is of the essence as there is increasing competition --- now more than ever--- for available money and experts and suppliers.

Mike B. said that he called Dale Wilson and reported on what was happening. Dale approves, in general, of the effort and approach. More recently, Mike B. met with Dale Wilson, and Board of Ed chair and vice chair, Mike Votto and Tom Hennessey. Although the problem of getting the money for a consultant needs to be addressed; and although everything is very preliminary and needs more scrutiny and input from all the players; Wilson, Votto, and Hennessey they are supportive of the concept. Mike B. reported that there could be more developments in June.

There was general agreement among committee members, in view of this, to follow this approach; encourage a comprehensive solution; and hope that a consultant can be hired.

The issue of the state grants for hybrids and school bus retrofits was discussed. Although the Town never told the committee (WECC) that it had taken up our suggestion and applied for the grants we were promoting, our meeting with the Clean Cities Coalition representatives ***did*** create some results. Don Roe, who attended our meeting, spread the word about the programs (thank you, Don). The school superintendent heard about the grants and committed to take advantage of the programs where feasible. As a result, the school system is applying for grants to retrofit two school buses. (As the grant is open only to municipalities, the private school bus operator that services Wallingford is not eligible.) Roger Dann, director of the water/sewer division also heard about this as a result of Don's efforts and asked for a grant for a hybrid (thanks, Roger).

Mike reported that the kill-a-watt meters were delivered to the library. Mike said that he is expecting the library to make an announcement when they are ready to lend them out.

Sharon had concerns about the general direction of the committee in view of these developments. Bruce suggested we press the purchasing department to look at the total useful-life costs of machinery/equipment, etc. that the Town buys, and not focus so much on initial purchase price, as a basis for bidding or buying.

The next meeting will be in late June.

Draft minutes prepared by Mike Brodinsky

Mike Brodinsky- Co-Chair