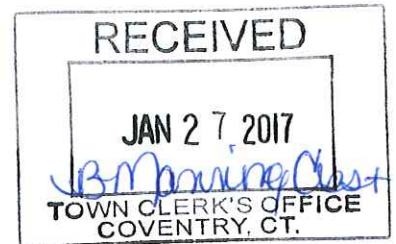


Town of Coventry
Energy Conservation/Alternative Energy Committee
Meeting January 4, 2017 6:30 PM



Members Present: Jennifer Reilly, Danielle Kloster, Tim Sadler, Mark Keifer, Andy DePalma, Jesse Hayes

Members Absent: none

Audience of Citizens: n/a

Call to Order: Jenn Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

Approval of Minutes: Tim Sadler moved to approve the minutes from November 30th, Jenn Reilly seconded the motion, there was no discussion, all were in favor.

Old Business:

Jenn Reilly stated that the North Coventry firehouse solar panel system is getting ready to be energized, but the Town Hall Annex solar panel system is not currently running. Tim Sadler will have someone from Encon check on the system even though they were not the company who installed the system.

Jenn Reilly provided Eversource with the data and log-in information for the Energy Star program. She will follow-up on this to ensure that they are able to access the data.

Jenn Reilly reported that the town website now provides data on the electricity output from the solar panels on the DPW building.

Jenn Reilly updated the committee that John Elsesser locked in gasoline pricing at \$2.11/gallon for the fleet vehicles. The town is undecided about locking in prices for town fuel oil year for 2017 because of the building/transition of the natural gas pipeline to the Town Hall complex.

Jenn Reilly reported that the town received the bill from the Green Bank for the town hall and police solar carports. The bill has been paid, so the project is closed.

Jenn Reilly updated that the LED lighting that was being done in the community center is complete. The town is looking to convert lighting in the senior center to LED lighting.

Jenn Reilly reported that the streetlight conversion should be completed within a few months by Eversource.

Danielle Kloster updated that she will email Eric Trott about the energy policy for the town.

The committee discussed the SolSmart application that was discussed at the previous meeting. The committee will work on this, and will bring in other employees of the town who have relevant information to contribute to the application. Jenn Reilly will email potential contributors. Tim Sadler volunteered to complete the portion of the application related to community engagement before the next meeting. There is also another SolSmart application for a SolSmart advisor host community. A staff person works for the town to improve and expand local solar energy markets. The application is due January 31st. Jenn Reilly will look into the requirements for this application and the potential benefits for the town.

Mark Keifer updated the committee that the town will apply for a recycling grant from DEEP in which composting is a component. If the grant is received, the town could possibly provide residents with on-site portable composting bins at a discounted rate. The committee discussed if there might be an interest in the schools for starting a composting program. Concerns over how labor intensive it would be for the school employees were raised.

Tim Sadler updated the committee that the Board of Education meeting went well and they are interested in more solar projects at the schools. The plan is to install a solar carport behind the high school. Tim has applied to the medium ZREC program to install a 320 kW and the small ZREC program to install an additional 100 kW.

Jenn Reilly updated the committee about the new energy management program at Tunxis Community College. There are certificate programs and a two-year degree program. Individual courses are \$565/class and are held in the evening.

Jenn Reilly reported that the last phone call with Encon for Solarize took place in December. Jenn Reilly was not able to participate, but they reviewed potential barriers to signing up. Jenn Reilly drafted an email to thank all of the Solarize campaign volunteers and sent it to John Elsesser's office. Jenn Reilly will coordinate with Town Hall and Encon as to how the email and swag material will get to the Solarize volunteers.

New Business:

Jenn Reilly reported that Brandon Bradley has resigned from the committee and there is now an open position on the committee.

The committee discussed potential workshops to hold this winter. The committee discussed plans to host the first workshop on February 21 or 28 at the library, depending on the availability of their schedule. Jenn Reilly will contact Eversource to find speakers and other potential topics. Tentative topics are clean wood burning for home heating and insulation. Jesse Hayes will be the speaker for the clean burning portion. Other potential topics discussed were mini-splits and how to read your utility bill.

Mark Keifer reported that the solar light in the DPW driveway is not functioning. The last repair of the driver cost around \$700. Mark recommends converting to a wired-in streetlight, rather than a solar streetlight. Jenn Reilly suggested using the same streetlights that were installed in the park. Mark will have an electrician look at the light to see if it is a simple fix.

Jenn Reilly reported that John Elsesser went to the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities at Foxwoods and provided the committee with information on a variety of energy services programs the committee might be interested in. Jesse Hayes suggested that the Energy Star Portfolio Manager could be used to determine energy use for town buildings and whether it can be aggregated for a micro-grid. Jesse thought that if there is not a town micro-grid, the town may not use enough electricity to qualify for the program.

Jenn Reilly reported that the Town of Branford partnered with the town's solid waste department during the 2016 holiday season and created a recycling program for wrapping paper and other holiday waste. They used a grant from DEEP to purchase paper bags similar to leaf bags to remind residents to recycle these items. They have converted 50 tons of trash to recycling so far through this program. Mark Keifer recommended advertising that wrapping paper is recyclable in the town newsletter before the next holiday season.

Jenn Reilly reported that in 2014, the state legislature put in place a temporary moratorium on banning fracking waste disposal in Connecticut. The memorandum mandates that regulations be submitted for review, possibly as early as the summer. Towns in four counties have already put in town ordinances banning waste disposal, and Coventry was the first to do so in October 2015.

Jenn Reilly shared a report from the U.S. Department of Energy showing differences in clean energy from 1985 to 2015. It was interesting for the committee to see that the average solar PV module was \$14.76/watt (2016 dollars) and there were 0 number of utility scaled PV projects where as in 2016 the average selling price of a PV module (Nov 2016) was \$.51/watt and the number of utility scale PV projects was 1,700. Fun facts like that remind us that the work we are doing today is setting our community up for even more clean energy benefits in the future,

The next meeting will be February 1, 2016 at 6:30 pm. Jenn Reilly called the meeting to a close at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Kloster