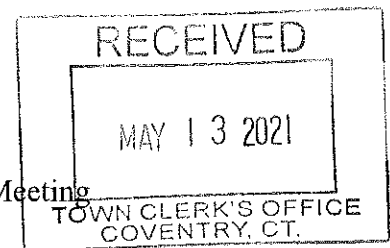


Town of Coventry
Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy Committee Meeting



Meeting: May 12, 2021

Location: Virtual meeting due to Covid-19

Members Present: Jenn Reilly, Kristine Dennis, Cameron Croutch, Bill Watkins, Bill Glenney, Wayne Daignault,

Members Absent: Caroline Davis

Audience of Citizens: None

Call to Order: Jenn Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM

Approval of the minutes: Wayne moved to accept the April 14, 2021 minutes; Cameron seconded. All voted in favor.

Old Business:

Farmers Market- Going Green event. Jenn reached out to the Farmers Market organizers to get dates, and to see if this is an event that we can host this year. Possible dates: June 13, June 27, August 15, August 22, or August 29. Committee is interested in the August 29th date. This would give the committee ample time to plan for the event, and to hope that Covid is in a better situation by then. In previous events we gave out free LED light bulbs to town residents. Jenn reached out to Jon Elsesser to see if there's any LED light bulbs left over from previous years that we could use. Bill will coordinate getting the presentation materials John purchased to the market barn sometime in June so we can determine how they will be useful for our 2021 event. Additional ideas for the event: Electric cars, solar companies, recycling bin compliance, LED energy savings, green bank, electric mower sales representative, electric company presentation, rain barrels, drip irrigation, composting. Jenn is going to set up a Drop Box folder and share it with all the Committee members so that there is a common space to see all the Going Green 2021 Market planning documents. Members are going to review and provide any feedback on the documents to Jenn before the June meeting.

Microgrid grant- Plan revisions were approved by DEEP this week, but the financing structure is looking better for the town. Net metering is still a challenge that is being worked through.

Composting bins- Do we have additional funding for more composting bins this year? Bill to check.

New Business:

Lighting Projects- The town is working with World Energy. The DPW is getting all new lighting with LED lights. They will energy efficient and we anticipate recouping the costs within 2-3 years in savings. The Senior Center is getting new LED lighting through a 0% loan. The Town is

looking into LED lights for the football field at the high school; not sure if they will justify a cost savings but are exploring them as an option.

Solar Projects- There are two additional solar projects planned but are in limbo until PURA decides on net metering.

Coventry has been approached by other towns regarding the success of our solar carports.

Electric mower demo- Bill W spoke about the Green Machine Electric Mower. DPW staff were able to test drive the new mower before we consider purchasing one. We're hoping that additional grant money will become available to help assist in the cost of obtaining one. This piece of equipment will help to move the town towards better sustainability.

Police Cars- We obtained 2 new hybrid plug-in cars for the police department and one additional vehicle has been ordered but hasn't come in yet. The costs are anticipated to be recouped over the next 2 years.

Town Hall EEE control system upgrade- will increase efficiency and will increase air filtration.

Library project- As soon as the current library project is done the town hopes to get a renovation grant to put solar on the library. This is on hold until the current library project is completed.

Street lights in town- We're still waiting to hear from Eversource on if we can replace/repair the ornamental street lights and flood lights to LEDs; waiting on PURA rate decision.

Sustainable CT application- We are currently at silver status. Our application to re-certify is due next year and we're hoping to get our application up to the gold level. Could we host events with featured speakers, etc. to help increase our application to get to gold level? Committee explored potential topics that we might find speakers for: Geothermal, composting etc. Members are going to draft ideas for next meeting.

Getting our message out- Is it possible to coordinate Facebook posts or info graphs that can be shared with the community? Cameron is going to try and come up with some ideas to present to the committee.

Pollinator pathways- Instead of mowing certain areas, the taller grass would allow for better pollination of native plants. This is something the town is interested in but hasn't made any plans as of yet.

Orchard Hills- They received a \$1M+ grant to upgrade the kitchens and appliances in the units to energy efficient ones.

Hytone Farm- They are working on getting a bio digester which will turn the manure into energy. The town can't commit to purchasing the electricity because if the net metering and micro grid become a reality we may be close to being off the grid. There are other towns that are interested in purchasing the energy generated from the bio digester.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2021 at 6:30 via Zoom. Plan on planning/discussing the Farmers Market event.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Dennis
Secretary