

Town of Coventry
Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy Committee Meeting

Meeting: September 6, 2022

Location: Virtual meeting due to Covid-19

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

Members Absent: Caroline Davis, Bill Watkins, Wayne Daignault

Audience of Citizens: None

Call to Order: Jenn Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM

Approval of the minutes:

Jenn Reilly made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 8th meeting, Krissie Dennis seconded. All voted in favor. Cameron Croutch made a motion to approve the minutes from August 3, Bill Glenney seconded. All voted in favor.

Old Business:

Farmer's Market- Going Green event is all set for October 16, 2022. Krissie to come up with ideas for ways that school children to exhibit energy savings options (maybe a poster competition with a small prize). Cameron has spoken to several car dealerships about having some EV cars that are available for viewing at the event (Ford Lightning, Mach e, Tesla and possibly inviting residents that own EVs within the community). Committee will also put together QR codes provide information about EV charging stations and rebates available. Krissie is going to work on building signs for the EV experience to provide information to the public.

Other Topics that the Committee is moving forward with for this year's event: food recycling (counter food bins), Committee will check in with Bill Watkins on this program; a display on the Anerobic digester (AG-Grid Energy) and info on the depackaging plant being considered in tandem with the digester project-Bill G working on this. Clean Energy incentives for residents (utilities and CT Green Bank)-Wayne and Cameron exploring the Mobile unit Eversource has. Ackert Electric-info on mini splits and EV charging information for residents- Cameron working on this. Homestead-Home Energy Audit vendor-Cameron working on following up. Info about Paint Recycling and Paint Care program at transfer station-checking with Bill W to see if staff from the DPW can provide info on recycling and Paint recycling. Jenn will be sending emails out to the following vendors: Electric Mowers, Earthlight Technologies, CT Clean Cities, All American Waste and Electric Bikes.

Jenn expressed that all communications with vendors should be consistent so that expectations to participate are clear and that all vendors fill out the required Farmers' Market paperwork. We need to ensure we have enough time to plan for vendor spacing accordingly and that we may be limited on space so we may not be able to accommodate those that do not fill out the paperwork.

The Committee discussed ways to publicize the Going Green event: E-blast, social media-town manager's office, and also ensuring we have a good graphic to showcase the event to all.

Jenn will be sending members all info on Market event via folder able to be accessed through DropBox within the next week.

The Committee is requesting that all Farmer's Market applications be into Jenn by COB on October 5th and will evaluate how many submissions we have gotten during that evenings Committee meeting. The Committee tentatively plans to hold a Special Meeting on October 12 to cover additional planning for the Farmers' Market event.

Pollinator- There's a project at Creaser Park that the town is working on, however this Committee is going to table involvement on this project until November, after the Farmer's Market.

Electronics Recycling- Look to incorporate this event into another town wide event, possibly with the town's shredding event that will happen in the Spring.

Recycling: Committee is still looking into how residents can get an extra recycling bin. Currently DPW does not offer a list or reservation system for obtaining a second bin and All-American Waste have not provided a cost estimate for residents that want a second bin. Bill Watkins stated that the dumpsters at the transfer station are filling up within an hour of recycling materials and is planning to talk to Casella Waste about new recycling bins for the transfer station.

EV Chargers- CT DEEP has offered additional incentives for businesses and municipalities that are interested in installing EV chargers. These incentives can be combined with PURA's EV Infrastructure Make Ready Program that Eversource and United Illuminating are currently managing. Several EV charging vendors have contacted the town to propose pricing options and have asked to meet with town personnel to evaluate potential town sites for EVSE development. More than five locations within the town are being explored for EVSE buildout and both technology and prices are currently being evaluated to determine the best fit for those locations. The Committee hopes to have an update on the direction of this project by the October meeting.

School Building Committee- The roof at Robertson is almost completed and portions of the High School roof have been replaced. Since the roof project was delayed not the entire roof replaced was completed this summer and the solar estimates for these roofs had to be reworked to try to maximize the solar installation that could be done before the April 2023 deadline. This new estimate was for 275 kW of a 475 kW planned system. For the additional solar that needs to go on the unfinished part of the HS roof, the town is seeking an extension of the solar project. The town is also looking at incorporating the solar for these projects into the microgrid project but is still working though the details of what that would involve.

Microgrid project- Project is still in a minor standstill. Looking at possibly tying in solar from the school roofs into the system but are working with lawyers and such to determine feasibility.

Committee wants to put together a monthly or quarterly newsletter to go out to town residents with important updates and items on energy efficiency and projects in town. Committee to check in with Wayne Daignault on the progress of this project.

New Business:

Jenn brought to the Committee's attention a First Communities webinar series, that Eversource is running that members may want to participate in. These lunchtime webinars focus on Eversource's energy efficiency programs and offerings in Connecticut. Find more info at: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2532793629034116880>

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 5 at 6:30. Still looking to hold a virtual meeting. Possible special meeting on Wednesday, October 12 to go over Farmer's Market

Motion to adjourn was made by Jenn Reilly at 7:40, seconded by Kristine Dennis. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristine Dennis