

## **Milford Energy Advisory Board Meeting**

February 20, 2018

Alan Brewster  
Diane Lentakis  
Jim Whitaker  
Pieter Moen  
Jason Prignoli  
Curt Krushinsky

Steve Johnson - City of Milford arrived at 7:14 PM.

Meeting commenced at 6:35 PM

Past meeting minutes from January 16, 2018 were approved.

### **Reports**

Accelerator Program - Alan noted that two meetings occurred since our last meeting. The first one focused on community engagement and communications skills and strategies. The second one focused on how to run successful meetings and incorporating energy issues into local Plans of Conservation and Development (POCDs). How can this group provide guidance and impact for energy efficiency within the Plan? Pieter noted that the Plan is on the City website for review.

The Accelerator program is funded through grant money. The February meeting was supposed to be the last meeting but a March meeting has been planned and may occur.

Energy Task Forces - Conference Call- Diane reported - about 10 groups typically participate - Fairfield, Westport, Hamden and New Haven have successful programs. The last meeting focused primarily on legislative Issues. Diane noted resiliency is a popular topic of discussion.

EV Program (Jason reported) there will be an EV event in North Haven on March 3rd from 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM at the Energize CT location owned by UI and Eversource at 122

Universal Drive North, North Haven, CT. Pieter noted City of Milford suggested use. Steve noted that City vehicle purchase is determined by each department and not by a central vehicle pool. Group suggested that this change to encourage more EV purchase. Steve noted that City Purchasing Department could get more involved in purchasing EVs.

Comprehensive Energy Strategy (DEEP) – revised CES dropped the cap of 20 household PV installations for a cap of \$35 million budgeted for solar installations in CT. This was an improvement but the CES also proposed the elimination of future net metering to be replaced by installing two meters at each home for the utilities to pay (probably wholesale) for energy produced by household PV installations and to charge for all energy used in a home. Existing PV systems would be “grandfathered”.

There is some support for large-scale solar installations but NIMBY issues have slowed down these installations. Milford could accommodate lots of mass solar installations such as the placement of large solar installations below electrical lines. Diane noted a law suit has been filed against the State of CT for the raiding of the Green Funds to assist in balancing the budget.

Discussion of 100% by 2050 project – The effort to eliminate fossil fuels use in the City of Milford. Alan noted a concentration on commercial and industrial facilities to assist in effort. There was a good deal of discussion about what members of the EAB could suggest to the various groups of commercial land-owners identified in the materials sent by the City and sorted by building use. There was a lot of discomfort about how to approach them. It was generally agreed that this initiative is a long-term one and first conversations should be about listening and general discussions about the climate change problem and how to deal with it, rather than proposing specific solutions.

Alan will be discussing this issue with the executive director of the Chamber of Commerce when he returns from a trip. Diane will talk with Schick and Alan will talk with BIC and Subway about potential funding and becoming involved in the EAB initiative. A potential resource for churches could be the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network. At our next meeting we will continue the discussion. Alan requested that group members identify a target building type and user to “begin the conversation” of energy efficiency

Diane briefly mentioned the Ready for 100 campaign. It is a campaign that works with community members throughout the U.S. to convince their mayors to agree to transition their towns/cities to 100% clean renewable energy (by 2035 or sooner in the electric sector and by 2050 or sooner for the transportation, heating, and cooling sectors).

Sustainable CT - Alan noted that Steve Johnson is taking the lead for the City of Milford. The EAB can identify lots of points that can be achieved in the area of "Efficient Physical Infrastructure & Operations" but to be certified the City needs also to find some points in each of the other eight categories. What other areas of sustainability can the group assist Steve on? Natural Resources, Infrastructure, Cultural aspects of Sustainability, Planning, Transportation, etc. The full set of certification categories and points available can be found and SustainableCT.org.

Steve noted that he can easily deal with Natural Resources and that he is working to get others in the City involved. He noted several persons who are interested in assisting on the point effort and will be holding a meeting next week to pursue this. Jason may be able to help in the Transportation area, especially with EV efforts. Steve has approached some folks about a recycling lunchroom audit at the elementary schools (Wilton program) and there is a Southington facility that processes food waste - out of date food into methane (Quantum Bio-Power facility).

Steve mentioned that some people have very differing perspectives on sustainability, e.g., the UN sustainability goals focus on poverty, education, etc. Diane shared some feedback about the Regional Convening for Sustainable Development in New Canaan.

We also discussed some older issues regarding municipal facilities and energy use. There will be a new Police Station and there was a question about the sustainability of its design and construction. Steve suggested getting in contact with Twig Holland - on the building Committee to see if we can establish an interface with our group. Alan agreed to contact the Mayor about seeing whether we can get more integration with various decisions about buildings and vehicle purchases.

Fuel cell at sewage treatment plants - Steve noted that the projects are moving forward conceptually. Pieter requested additional information.

Potential to modify the agenda process - Alan Diane suggested having a group review and approval of agendas each month. Using the Goggle Document process would allow for group participation in the development of the agenda and facilitation of the meeting. Group members could also include estimated time to discuss suggested topics. Jason volunteered to set up a group Goggle Doc account.

Meeting ended at 8:22 PM.

Next meeting is March 20th and will be held in our regular location, conference room B, at 6:30 PM.