



Town of Greenwich

Conservation Commission

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Conservation Commission Energy Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

Mazza Room, 1st Floor, Town Hall

In attendance: Bob Brady, Steve Hall, Skip Parker, and Urling Searle

Also in attendance: Patricia Sesto, director, Sarah Coccaro, conservation resource manager, and Sandy Litvack, selectman

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Patricia Sesto

2. Approval of Minutes

May 30, 2019 meeting minutes were not discussed.

3. Town Hall Energy Audit and report

Sandy Litvack was present for the meeting and offered a fresh look at the report. He proceeded to ask questions and make suggestions for the report.

Sesto directed the committee members to the goals listed in the Introduction. Searle asked for clarification with goal #2's second sentence. The Committee decided to remove the sentence all together. Litvack recommended changing "goals" to "recommendations".

Litvack asked for greater clarification with *why* energy conservation efforts have failed in the past here in town. Was it a legal issue, a public relations issue, or a state impediment? Brady offered insight into reasons why. He stated that the Town has a policy about life cycle cost analysis, but we have separate building committees and there is no continuity between buildings and equipment. Litvack asked if it was a bidding issue. Brady

continued that RFPs do not ask for energy efficiency, but that should change. Sesto restated Litvack's statement that those *why's* need to be brought up to the surface of the report so they are clear to the reader. Litvack agreed and recommended a goal for the new commission would be to apply a fresh set of eyes to energy conservation efforts in Town; essentially to start over. Litvack continued that the goal is to get energy efficiency measures and to grow a community of energy conservationists in town. The new commission should look at all of this report, but it's not exclusive, there might be things that are thought of or added later. The new commission should apply a holistic approach to the system.

Sesto stated that the Al Monelli's summary section will be slightly revised later today when she receives more information from Monelli.

Coccaro recommended defining "net-metering" in the report since the term is used often and not every reader will know what it means.

Sesto directed the committee to the Conclusions and Recommendations section. Litvack offered changes to recommendation 1, to define the function of the commission in terms of establishing a vision and plan, but also in reinforcing implementation and to develop processes and procedures to achieve their goals. Hall furthered that recommendation, stating the future commission will need to address rules and regulations within town departments.

Searle left the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Litvack declared the recommendations listed in the report are not exclusive. He asked if there should be another goal added pertaining to a public relations campaign. Discussion ensued around the substation proposal and why so many residents were against it. The committee acknowledged that while many residents agree saving money and clean energy is a good thing, the town should actively work to educate residents on these issues.

Discussion ensued around the timeline and process of this report. Sesto stated the report goes to the Conservation Commission this Thursday, June 6, for approval. If the Commission approves, we would like to get this on the Board of Selectmen's (BoS) agenda for June 14. Litvack recommended inviting BET and RTM members, as well as newspapers there.

With no further edits, it was the consensus of the committee to approve the report and refer it on to the Conservation Commission.

4. Next meeting

CC meeting Thursday, June 6 at 7:00 p.m. BoS meeting in June 14 at 10:00 a.m. No meeting date was selected for the energy committee.

5. Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.