

Wallingford Energy Conservation Commission
Special Meeting
December 9, 2009
Room #315 at 6:30 pm
Town Hall, 45 South Main Street, Wallingford, CT

Minutes

The meeting convened at 6:35 p.m.

The chairman discussed funding issues for the school energy savings project. Funding will be a challenge but it should not be impossible. We will continue to monitor how the Board of Ed is going to handle the issue and make plans from that point --- a play it by ear approach. Mike B. will report back on the results of NXEGEN's final report, due very soon, and on his talks with the School Superintendent, Sal Menzo.

Mike B. discussed the plan to possibly increase the use of natural gas at those schools that have gas service on an "interruptible" contract basis. That is, month-to-month purchases is practical, depending upon (1) supply; and (2) gas prices quoted monthly; and (3) the cost of fuel oil. It has to pay to do it. Mike B. and Sal Menzo, and the purchasing agent, Sal Amadeo, and Board of Ed member Tom Hennessey, met to discuss the plan. The purchasing agent is willing to prepare some financial analysis, monthly, for the Board of Ed to help determine when it would pay to use natural gas in any given month. In the meantime, he will try to structure the fuel oil bid to give the the Town more flexibility to switch to gas, on an occasional basis, without any penalty being imposed by the oil supplier.

Mike B. reported that during that meeting, he reviewed with Sal Menzo and Tom Hennessey his conversation with the Yankee Gas account exec, Joe Heller, (see previous emails). Heller said that Yankee Gas may put a gas line down Route 68. If so, there is a possibility that we could get a spur to tie into Sheehan and the nearby schools and town buildings. This needs to be monitored. Sal Menzo and Tom will monitor this, too.

The group reviewed the procedures for next year. The committee needs to be reappointed and dates selected or meeting dates. Mike B. will prepare a letter towards the end of the month. It is preferable to get fixed dates for meetings, but ad hoc "special meetings" meetings can be called. All meetings at the Town Hall need to be cleared with Pat or Joan at the Mayor's office to be sure Room 315 is available and a key is available to lock the sliders.

Meeting notices with agendas, and then the draft minutes of all meetings, need to be

posted with the Town Clerk and on the Town's website by emailing them to towngovwallingford@sbcglobal.net.

Mike B. discussed the wind turbine project at the YMCA field in Meriden, all paid for with grants. The Y is making a photo diary of the construction of the turbine and, according to the Community Relations director, (Eddie Siebert 675-2376), the Y might be willing to be a guest speaker. Mike B. met him in the field, recently, by accident.

The group briefly discussed increasing membership on the committee and projects to consider for 2010-2011.

Ben Martin and Chris Smith were elected co-chairs for the next two years, beginning with the first meeting in 2010 and ending upon the election of new co-chairs.

Draft minutes prepared by Mike Brodinsky
12/10/09 _____

Mike Brodinsky, Co-Chair