

**AD-HOC ENERGY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING CORRECTED MINUTES – JUNE 29, 2016**

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Energy Committee held on June 29, 2016.

Members Present: Bill Fish, Darlene Briggs, Bill Fredrickson, Richard White, Jill Brainerd and Chris Ehlert (arrived @ 4:14).

Members Absent: Lesley Wysocki.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Vice Chairman Bill Fish.

Upon a motion by Darlene Briggs, seconded by Richard White, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to appoint Bill Fish as Acting Chairman until Chris Ehlert arrives at the meeting.

Clean Energy Community – Update:

a. **HES and HES-IE vendor interviews and selection:**

Bill Fish explained that we are looking for a new HES-IE Vendor because the one that we had is no longer eligible for the program. The following companies were interviewed:

1. New England Conservation Services: John Greeno was present and was told that this committee has held a series of workshops where we had Solar Challenge and HES reps at over the last year and a half. The events were held at the Library, High School, Town Hall and at community events. Mr. Fish asked Mr. Greeno what his company had to offer to the Town of Westbrook. Mr. Greeno distributed some information on his company, as well as reviews. He gave a history of the company and stated that his company was one of the original 4 HES contractors in the State. There are 41 contractors in the State. His company is the first company that EverSource brought in for Income Eligibility. They have worked very closely with Solar Challenge and provided a list of other communities that they have worked with. He further stated that they have worked a lot of income eligibility outreach events and the person for his company lives in Madison and is readily available. Mr. Greeno stated that his company will be happy to reach out to any part of our community that this committee feels would fit the criteria for IE. They will even attend an event on weekends if necessary. He recommended approaching local churches to reach out to people as well as any food pantries in the area. Chairman Ehlert stated that we work very closely with the Town's Social Services Department and we also have a very active Senior Center. It was mentioned that we also have a large "Snow Bird" population in Westbrook. Mr. Greeno recommended approaching these people prior to them heading south for the winter. Mr. Greeno stated that his company is very thorough about following up on any leads and following through on them. Bill Fish stated that the Committee is looking for a company that will be prepared at our events, as well as aggressive to pull people in. Mr. Greeno stated that his employees will definitely be prepared and aggressive and if not, he would want to be notified immediately. They are willing to handle the post card mailings if the committee feels it's necessary. They would provide the applications to potential customers and include self-addressed envelopes for the applications.
2. Community Renewal Team: Nick Ross was present and distributed information on his company. He stated that his company works with HES to provide services to help reduce energy usage in households including low income home owners or renters. They replace light bulbs, provide caulking, weather stripping, air sealing, door sweeps and foam insulation. They conduct a health

and safety assessment in order to make recommendations to lower energy bills. They are currently working with EverSource to help customers who need heating system replacements. He spoke about federal programs that are available. He explained how they determine eligibility for Income Eligibility and he went through their process of approval. Chairman Ehlert asked what he would do to get more Westbrook households involved. Mr. Ross stated that they would talk to the people through the Senior Center or any other group that was requested of him. They are trying to build partnerships with the Towns. Their company is also involved with Meals on Wheels and many other economic development programs. They currently service Hartford and Middlesex Counties. Bill Fish stated that the last vendor donated \$25.00 from each \$99.00 fee to the Towns Social Services fuel fund. Would CRT be willing to continue this? Mr. Ross stated that he would have to run that by his supervisor. Chairman Ehlert went over how the funding works for everything to do with HES and IE. Bill Fish asked if CRT was willing to fund and handle the mailing of post cards for any events. Again, Mr. Ross stated that he would have to run that by his supervisor before committing to that. He will find out the answers to the 2 questions and get back to the Committee. There was discussion of how CRT would follow up on any leads.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

Bill Fish provided notes from the March 23, 2016 meeting and Secretary Kelemen will format them into minutes. Secretary Kelemen is still working on the June 29 minutes.

June 16, 2016 Board of Selectmen Meeting – Update and Initiatives:

a. Solar PV installation exploration on Town Buildings:

Bill Fish reached out to Elliot Hitchcock about possibly placing up to 12 solar panels on the new Town Garage Building on Route 145. The Board of Selectmen have requested that the Committee go out for and RFP to do an analysis of all Town Buildings to see which ones would be appropriate for solar panels. Maybe we could get some rough figures from AEGIS and if it is decided to move forward it would have to go out for and RFP. AEGIS would be responsible for installing the solar panels that we have earned but anything else would go out for bid. Maybe we should just go out to bid and let AEGIS respond if they so choose. Chairman Ehlert stated that he feels that the Riggio Building would be perfect for solar panels because a new roof has been approved for the building and all the current antennas on the building will be moved to an antenna tower on the ground. There was discussion about the best way to proceed. We need to contact AEGIS regarding the free panels that we earned and where they can be placed to get the best use of them, then do an RFP separately. Richard White stated that he would love to see the Town Hall have solar panels for the visibility. Bill Fish will contact AEGIS.

HES – IE Vendor Selection:

There was discussion regarding the two companies interviewed earlier.

Upon a motion by Richard White, seconded by Darlene Briggs, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to approve New England Conservation Services as the primary HES – IE Vendor.

Bill Fish will contact Mr. Greeno and request a marketing plan from them for the next meeting. Also, Elizabeth Carpenter of Social Services will be notified of the change in vendors.

It was stated that the Committee should really reach out to the summer people before the summer is over.

The next meeting will be a Special Meeting to be held on July 20, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment:

Upon a motion by Darlene Briggs, seconded by Bill Fish, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to adjourn at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathleen H. Kelemen

As transcribed from tape of the meeting.

NOTE: All changes indicated in bold, underlined and italicized print.