

HAMDEN ENERGY USE & CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION

Hamden Government Center
2750 Dixwell Avenue, Third Floor Conference Room

Monday, January 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Hamden Energy Use and Climate Change Commission opened on January 13, 2020 at the Hamden Government Center, located at 2750 Dixwell Avenue in the third floor conference room.

Attending: Lawrence Rosenthal, chair; Christina Crowder (via Facetime); Alison DeMaio; Susan Kulis; Martin Mador; Brendan Smith; and Kathleen Schomaker, Energy Efficiency Coordinator.
Absent/Excused: David Cooper. **Also in attendance:** Henry Dynia and Patrice LeMoine, substitute Clerk for the Commission.

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Roll Call was held, and it was noted that a quorum was present.
2. **Approval of minutes of the October meeting:** Mr. Rosenthal requested a motion to approve the minutes of the December meeting. Mr. Smith motioned to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2019 meeting as amended. Ms. DeMaio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Public comment of agenda items:** Mr. Smith requested to add an item to the agenda. With no one opposed, the Chair added "Shared Solar" to new business.
4. **Energy Efficiency Coordinator's Report:** Ms. Schomaker presented her report. She gave a brief overview of Connecticut's Environmental Summit. Ms. Schomaker is attending the summit and the AIA NetZero School Summit at Yale. She shared information regarding registering to attend these events.

The NORESKO contract is with legal counsel. Connecticut Green Bank promoting the Solar (Municipal) Map is ongoing.

Progress on Sustainable CT Hamden Energy Plan – Ms. Schomaker noted that the municipal energy planning is a challenge, as well as a very important plan. She provided a plan and highlighted a few edited action items. Ms. Schomaker recommends following the timeline and the Commission should review the guidelines. Ms. Crowder added that we should review our draft before going to the legislative council and the Sustainable CT. Ms. Schomaker mentioned we should include the renewable energy data, and Mr. Rosenthal would like to ask Bernie Pelletier to work with us.

The EV Readiness Study Update – Ms. Schomaker said Andrea, the coordinator, has received about 60% of the data collected and is working to completing the survey.

Ms. Schomaker mentioned the CCA resolution was presented to the Town Council and after the presentation, the Council tabled the resolution. In summary, the program is a learning process.

Mr. Rosenthal will contact the CCA to provide the EUCC Commission a more simplified resolution to present to the Town Council.

There was no status or update regarding Connecticut Green Bank for solar energy for flat roof commercial buildings. We may be able to contact and meet with PACE. At this time, there may not a program available for Hamden through Connecticut Green Bank.

Mr. Rosenthal confirmed that we can invite Ms. Sherri Borrelli, UI's community officer, to meet with the EUCC Commission.

The EV program cannot be included in the Earth Day event. Mr. Rosenthal added that we may be able to use Earth Day to host the awards display or the event.

5. Old Business:

Awards Program – Ms. Kulis and Mr. Smith provided a brief update. To-date, the project is in Mr. Dale Kroop's office. We are waiting for his office to conduct the distribution of the email blast. Mr. Smith said holding the awards event in April on Earth Day is a tight deadline for the EUCC. Mr. Rosenthal said he may meet with the representative from the City of Milford for information, ideas and timeline from their energy award program. After further discussion, the awards committee agreed to meet the deadline of April 2020.

6. Municipal Energy Plan Status Update and Microgrid Update – Mr. Rosenthal requested confirmation where the MEP will fit with the POCD. Ms. Schomaker noted the MEP will be included with the credible energy plan. She went further to explain the MEP will include and reference the microgrid as a strategy or goal. We can provide information about the implementation of a micro-plan, EV and CCA, etc. as bullet points, as a strategy, but not a plan. It will be part of the Town's goal in achieving sustainable energy plan by 2025.

Further discussion was held regarding the EUCCC's role with the Town. The EUCC Commission is an advisor to the Mayor, and perhaps he should go before the Town Council. The EUCC Commission will draft a plan with a strategy. Mr. Rosenthal would like to go before the Council to introduce the Commission and the goals and objectives before presenting the MEP. The Commission may need to meet with various department directors for their support and endorsement prior to going before the Council with a plan.

7. **New Business:**

Mr. Smith presented information regarding Shared Clean Energy Facility (SCEF), also known as Community Solar. In 2018 a public act was approved with no information to support the act. DEEP and PURA have been discussing the structure of the program and that this docket filing is the result of their discussion. Mr. Smith provided bulleted information of the act.

Shared Clean Energy Facility Program

1. Six-year program
2. 25 MW per Year Split between Eversource and UI

3. Eligible projects will be between 100 kW and 4 MW
4. Solar Developer builds and maintains solar facility for 20-year term
5. Solar Developer bids a \$/kWh sale price to the Utility
6. Utility decided subscribers
7. Subscriber Bill Credit \$0.025/kWh
8. Solar Developer can claim Fed Tax incentives, but not state incentives or ZREC
9. Utility keeps the RECs

Mr. Smith noted the solar developer, but other Class I Renewable developers will be eligible.

At 8:30 p.m. Ms. Schomaker withdrew from the meeting.

There was a further discussion regarding the possible benefits for the Hamden to work as a PPP with a brownfield for solar array. Ms. Crowder said she does not see this being an interest for the Town to consider. This may not be profitable, but Mr. Dynia said it moves the Town closer to reaching its energy efficiency goals.

After further discussion, it was decided to table the subject to a later time.

Public Transportation Electric Buses – Mr. Rosenthal shared information regarding grant funding for electric buses. He noted that the City of Bridgeport applied and is granted funds to run electric buses. In summary, they vehicles run 16 hours per day on electric energy. Mr. Rosenthal inquired if Hamden could consider the same program. The Commissioners noted the bussing in Hamden is operated through the State and any other transportation in the area is privately owned and operated. Ms. Crowder confirmed this project is not the responsibility of the EUCC Commission. The decision was reached that unfortunately the project is not one for the Commission.

Ms. Kulis presented her list of goals and objectives for the EUCC Commission. The Commission agreed to begin a dialogue with the Town Council, to a group or subcommittee of the Council, or the president of the Town Council.

8. **Adjournment:** At 9:04 p.m. Mr. Rosenthal adjourned the meeting.
9. **Next meeting:** February 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Patrice A. LeMoine

Clerk for the Hamden Energy Use and
Climate Change Commission