

HAMDEN ENERGY USE & CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION

(via Zoom/Telephonically) Minutes of a Regular Meeting of September 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Hamden Energy Use and Climate Change Commission took place on Monday, September 14, 2020, via Zoom/telephonically.

Attending: Lawrence Rosenthal, chair; David Cooper, Alison DeMaio; Henry Dynia; Susan Kulis; Martin Mador; and Kathleen Schomaker, Energy Efficiency Coordinator. **Absent:** Brendan Smith. **Also in attendance:** Guests: Robert and Beva Langdon; and Patrice LeMoine, Clerk for the Commission.

Call to Order: Mr. Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. Roll Call was held, and it was noted that a quorum was present. Mr. Rosenthal welcomed guests Bob and Beva Langdon. The Langdon's are coordinating the EV auto event at the end of this month, which is taking place at the parking lots at Miller Library and Hamden Park Center.

Approval of minutes: Mr. Rosenthal requested a **motion** to approve the minutes of the August meeting. Mr. Dynia motioned to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2020 meeting as presented. Ms. Kulis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public comment of agenda items: No one present, nothing to note.

Mr. Rosenthal requested the Langdons give an update about the upcoming event. Mr. Beva spoke of the advertising that has been prepared, and due to the pandemic, they expect a lower attendance from the previous years. Ms. Langdon went over the logistics, and she noted the number of auto dealerships who are expected to bring an EV car, and current owners of EVs will be bringing their auto for a "show and tell," session. In addition, everyone is keeping in mind the state and town's guidelines to physical distancing and wearing of masks.

The Langdon's appreciate any time and support that the commissioners can provide on the day of the event. The event opens at 1:00 and ends at 3:00 p.m. They could use volunteers for set up at 11:00 a.m. and close-up from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Ms. Schomaker will look to post the event on the town's website.

Mr. Rosenthal added that the town is looking to install EV stations. Ms. Schomaker and the commission are aware that this is a long process, however, Hamden is an ideal location, but this is an expensive endeavor. The commission spoke about the auto manufacturers that are designing new electric vehicle for the future.

At 8:08 p.m. the commissioners thanked the Langdons for their work and time to organizing this event.

Energy Efficiency Coordinator's Report: Ms. Schomaker provided a few updates. She gave an update on the town's street lights program. The project is being postponed until further notice. The project is in the town attorney's office for review and then back to the town council for approval. The NORESO audit project will follow the streetlight project, due to the town council's recommendation.

Further discussion was held regarding the streetlight project. The residents are for the town purchasing the street lights from United Illuminating; however, we are looking to working with UI, to avoid the owner becoming a financial burden to the town, and now an audit might be held before the project is approved. If we were to purchase the lighting project, it will take the town two years before finalizing the agreement and we will lose time to implement an energy efficient system. In the long-term it is much more costly to own the streetlights than the current situation. The streetlights will be the property of United Illuminating Company and if the need to upgrade and update the streetlights then it becomes a burden to the town. There are other matters involved, like a tariff set by PURA, an unmetered system, and there is an anticipated new savings of \$42,500 per year, pending the audit, which should create additional savings to the town. To confirm, the Town of Hamden is going into an agreement with UI Company and Tanko might come into play, pending their final proposed bid for services.

Old Business:

- a. Green Awards Program Update – Ms. Kulis and Mr. Smith are working on the program with Dale Kroop, in Economic Development. Although Mr. Kroop is retiring in two months, Ms. Kulis recommends keeping this project with this department. Ms. Schomaker added that Mr. Kroop will continue to work on a contract basis with Hamden, focusing on the brownfield projects in the town.

At 8:44 p.m. Mss. Kulis and Schomaker withdrew from the meeting.

New Business: Nothing to present.

Mr. Cooper noted a shared solar program was announced in Shelton and Thomaston and Bloomfield have gone into a similar agreement. He shared some of the issues that have postponed the projects and added that these are state approved "trial" projects.

Further discussion was held regarding the electric school buses in Connecticut. The goal is for all school buses to be electric, and we hope First Student in Hamden will soon be on board with this program. The commissioners held further conversation regarding environmental programs available in the area that may be of further discussion for an upcoming agenda item.

Adjournment: Mr. Rosenthal requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Cooper motioned to adjourn at 8:54 p.m. and was seconded by Ms. DeMaio. The motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting: October 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Patrice A. LeMoine

Clerk for the Hamden Energy Use and
Climate Change Commission