

Minutes
Chester Clean Energy Team
June 12, 2017

Members: Pat Woomer, Sandy Prisløe, Rick Holloway, Peter Harding, Bill Bernhart, Ed Meehan*, Lauren Gister (ex officio) (*= not in attendance)

Guests: Jim Schaefer (Chester Hose Company), Ruth Mowrey (citizen), John Schroeder (Main Street Committee)

(Note: # indicates an action item carried over from a previous meeting)

The E-Team meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

Audience of Citizens — No comments.

Approval of minutes. Minutes of meeting on May 8, 2017 were approved.

1. Solar installations at CES and the Firehouse

- a. Lauren has met with town attorney to review contract, which appears to be a “boiler plate” version. Some information obviously missing (e.g. early termination fees, tables). Open question of whether this has to go to a Town Meeting. (2-week notice required.)
- b. **Lauren** to send comments directly to Greenskies and will request a final contract
- c. ZREC expires in October of this year.

2. Streetlights

- a. Preliminary audit report received. 385 lights and poles surveyed (though Eversource buyout price was based on 313 Eversource-owned lights).. 10 lights with damaged poles or arms. **Sandy** to review these in the field to determine if they need replacement.
- b. We await the full Tanko GIS survey for presentation at public meeting.
- c. Tanko will send us by tomorrow the exact location as well as information (wattage, color temp, manufacturer, etc) on LED lights installed as part of pilot projects in other towns (e.g. Old Lyme (both Phillips and GE), West Hartford). **Members of the E-Team** will meet at 9:00 PM (Exit 6 commuter lot) to view those in Old Lyme next Tuesday, June 20th. **Sandy** will determine what Old Saybrook has for their pilot program.
- d. Tanko estimates 2-3 weeks to reconcile field data with Eversource data and our spreadsheet, then they begin design phase. **Pat or Ed** to get better info on what is included in the design review. Tanko to understand we are open to changing wattage, light distribution, or fixture removal, but not adding more lights.
- e. We decided to include decoratives in the design review, though action on these may be delayed. Tanko to advise whether they can retrofit existing (Schofield) decoratives.
- f. The design review is the most time-consuming part of the process. Jenny has been accumulating a list of concerns received. (Most requests have been to eliminate glare.) **Lauren** will explore the experiences of selectmen in other towns. **Debra** (Tanko project manager) will check with the other project managers so see if they have recommendations for the public meeting. We plan to separate review by highways, downtown, and residential areas. **John Schroeder** to coordinate with Main Street Committee. The Water Street parking lot lighting will not be part of this review, as lights there are not town-owned.
- g. **Lauren** will have state Trooper review traffic accident data for lighting recommendations.

h. **Lauren** will send out, by Friday of this week, a notice of a public streetlight meeting to be held 28 June, 7:30 PM at the town hall.

3. Miscellaneous E-Team projects.

- a. Meeting house upgrade: items
insulation: Included in this year's budget. Awaiting contract and insurance information from Wesson Energy.
Furnace replacement and UST closeout: It has been decided that it is not desirable to accept the offer of a free, used furnace.
- b. Home Energy Solutions (HES-IES): Planning to hold a meeting with residents at Cherry Hill. Manager there to set date; Wesson rep will attend.
- c. We need 12 more points to obtain our next \$5000 BIG grant. Projects at Chester Village West and the Guest House will not be credited towards this until jobs are completed.
- d. **Rick** to make recommendations for best way to use our remaining \$2k from the previous grant as well as the expected \$5k grant.
- e. Watering systems at War Memorial and Town Hall. Met with irrigation company; water use will drop from 3600 gals/wk to 480 gals/wk as a result of reprogramming the controls.
- f. Town garage. As a result of lighting upgrade, electrical use dropped 23% from Sept-March last winter to same period this winter.
- g. **Peter** to evaluate changes in electrical and heating demands for the Town Hall as a result of insulation upgrade.
- h. Rick provided requested information to Clean Energy Communities .

4. EPA Portfolio Manager

Base year is 2011. **Sandy** will continue to update information.

5. Municipal Action Plan (MAP) update

- a. Still needs full table of accomplishments and of goals.
- b. Some towns include Energy as a separate chapter in their POCD. We will do the same.

6. Open Action items

We need a written policy for selection of streetlights (e.g. safety) [Will be developed during design review.]

Peter will examine why the ductless mini-split condenser is located inside the Firehouse. [It was probably because the roof was unfinished at the time unit was installed. Cost to revise probably not worth the summer energy savings. We may evaluate this later.]

Jim S will obtain specific quotes for replacement of the Firehouse boilers.

Rick EnergizeCT reports a need for update of login info and missing data.

Pat will inquire what Region 4 is doing to follow electrical costs.

Rick will request that Sharon Echtman add columns for the supplier, the rate, and the expiration date to the spreadsheet showing monthly electrical usages and costs . [per

minutes of March 13, 2017 meeting, we recommended staying with Eversource as supplier until major changes in town have been completed. We will revisit this in October.]

Ed will draft a letter for **Lauren** to send to CT Water Co to see if they have any interest in partnering for a PV installation on their property near High Meadow Road. [this is complex because the Water Company is a public utility.]

Rick to explore grants (e.g. CT Historical Commission) for planning as well as for the upgrades.

7. New Business:

Energy Star Certification: will be addressed at a future meeting.

Adjournment 11:05 am.

Next meeting 9:00 AM Monday, **July 10**, 2017

R.P. Holloway