

# ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

CLIFFORD J. HURGIN MUNICIPAL CENTER

1 SCHOOL STREET, BETHEL, CT. 06801

MEETING ROOM "A"

THURSDAY, April 5, 2012

7:00 P.M.

Regular Meeting

## MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Chairman, Bill Cratty, Members: Randi Oisher, Fred Zalcman, Hank Karl, David Dunn, Mark Anderson, Bill Hillman, and Keith Watson.

**ABSENT:** Gary Pedone

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Bill Cratty called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**March 1, 2012-** Randi Oisher made a motion to approve the minutes of March 1, 2012. Fred Zalcman seconded the motion. Vote, motion accepted. Bill Hillman, Keith Watson, and Mark Anderson abstained.

**March 14, 2012-** Keith Watson made a motion to approve the minutes of March 14, 2012. Hank Karl seconded the motion. Vote, motion accepted. Bill Hillman abstained.

**March 15, 2012-** Hank Karl made a motion to accept the minutes of March 15, 2012. Bill Cratty seconded the motion. Vote, motion accepted. Bill Hillman abstained.

**SOLAR PROJECT UPDATE:** Chairman Cratty reported that RGS Energy performed a walk through of the site area in order to get details on a final design plan, and put a proposal together. It was also reported that our State Rep Dan Carter was instrumental in amending the bill to contain proper language; it will be looked upon favorably. This is a short legislative session, it will conclude at the end of May. As part of the legislature, Virtual Net Metering will be enacted. It will need to be decided as to what strategy to bid on ZRECS. We cannot enter into any agreement with RGS until ZRECS are awarded.

Fred Zalcman reported that the order came out from "PURA" yesterday (Wednesday) and the RFP will be issued by the utilities by April 11<sup>th</sup>. We have five weeks from that point to respond. RGS will have to get back to us. Chairman Cratty reported that CL&P will be purchasing 8 Million dollars in ZRECS. It was discussed that the cost of energy plus the long term impact will be taken into consideration.

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TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK

Fred mentioned that there is a 30% tax credit for investment right off the top plus accelerated depreciation benefits. It was noted that the RGS/Smart Energy Capital team has all project components at their disposal to include construction financing and long term financing in the same package. They do not have to be concerned about stitching different financing sources together to ensure project funding.

**ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS:**

The Town's Energy Conservation Plan (see attached) which was adopted by the Board of Selectmen focuses on supply and demand at the same time. The project on replacing heating oil for heating at Berry, Rockwell, Johnson and the Middle School with natural gas is underway.

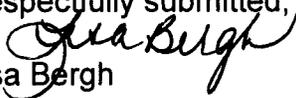
The timing on installing Fuel Cell Energy is at a low cost currently. Logan Energy is working with United Technologies. The next bid for ZRECS and LRECS is following April. Chairman Cratty remarked that Fuel Cell technologies are different and United Technology has a longer history working with the Fuel Cell Technology.

The next meeting of the Energy Conservation Committee will be May 3, 2012.

**ADJOURN:** Bill Hillman made a motion to adjourn; motion was seconded by Hank Karl. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned 7:50P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Lisa Bergh

## **Town of Bethel, Connecticut**

### **Energy Conservation Plan**

#### **GOAL**

Achieve the lowest point on the total cost curve for Bethel's energy use equation commensurate with a reduction in Bethel's "carbon footprint" through optimizing energy efficiency and use of non-polluting and renewable energy resources where feasible.

#### **DEMAND SIDE**

The Town plans to:

- Upgrade building lighting, heating, cooling, ventilation and environmental control systems to improve energy efficiency.
- Improve building insulation where appropriate.
- Replace heating oil usage for space heating at Barry, Rockwell, Johnson and Middle Schools with natural gas.

This will be accomplished by

- Utilize Performance Contracting with guaranteed energy savings to perform investment grade energy audits of town and school buildings to identify appropriate building system upgrades and building insulation improvements, and implement audit findings to install and maintain building system upgrades and insulation improvements.
- Extend natural gas mains from service entrance at Bethel High School to the four other schools in the School Park.

#### **SUPPLY SIDE**

The Town also plans to:

- Install a solar photovoltaic system at former Bethel landfill to generate electricity using a renewable energy source.
- Install a fuel cell power plant at an appropriate thermal host to co-generate electricity and thermal energy thereby optimizing efficient use of a clean energy source.

This will be accomplished by:

- Enact an ordinance creating an Energy Improvement District within the Town of Bethel thereby permitting the town to "wheel" fuel cell and solar generated electricity to town, school and other buildings within Bethel's borders.
- Utilize a Purchase Power Agreement to fund, construct and maintain the solar voltaic system via 3<sup>rd</sup> party investors.
- Utilize an Energy Purchase Agreement to fund, construct and maintain the fuel cell power plant via 3<sup>rd</sup> part investors.