

Energy Commission
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
February 11, 2019
1st Floor Meeting Room

PRESENT: Sean Dunn, Tom Ragaini, Sheldon Scott, Dennis Sirianni
and Karen Hintz (left at 7 pm)
ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Zoppo Sassu, Dave Oakes, Ray Rogozinski and Calvin Brown

1. Call to Order

Mayor Zoppo Sassu called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Election of Chairperson and to take any action as necessary
3. Election of Vice Chairperson and Secretary and to take any action as necessary

The Mayor stated there is still one vacancy on the Commission, which she will announce at the next Council meeting. She does have an interested citizen, but she will not be able to join the Commission until April. It was agreed to hold off on election of a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson until a full Commission is present at the meeting.

4. Establish meeting schedule and to take any action as necessary

It was agreed to meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. The next meeting will be on March 21, 2019 in the Executive Meeting Room of City Hall.

5. To discuss Earth Day – April 2019 and to take any action as necessary

The Mayor discussed a new program with Simple Recycling that will be introduced through the school system similar to the pink bag residents are currently using for recycling clothing at home and placing it at the curbs to be picked up. Orange bags will be distributed throughout the school system and will earn money for the schools per pound. Starting July 1, the City will have to pay for its recyclables. The Energy Commission could be a partner and sponsor this program. The City has a grant from Covanta for other initiatives such as composting, raised garden beds at the schools and rain barrels. Farmington River Watershed is working on a rain garden. Discussion was held on involvement with the Public Works Department and Education programs. The Mayor discussed the importance of partnering with the schools, but as a Commissioner they can share social media posts Public Works put out on related topics.

Dave Oakes spoke about an invasive species workshop that will be taking place on March 20 at the Library at 6:30 pm if anyone would like to attend.

It would be beneficial for the Committee to learn about the Sustainable CT program at the March meeting, Dave Oakes will send the link with more information for Commissioners to start reading more about it and provide more information at the next meeting.

Tom Ragaini made a motion seconded by Sean Dunn, “to endorse concepts put forth by the Public Works Board to support Earth Day 2019.” Motion approved.

Discussion was held on other ways to integrate into the classroom, Karen will speak with Jenn Dube who chairs the Achievement Committee.

6. Open discussion of background materials and priorities for the commission and to take any action as necessary

Dave stated the City is still active in Portfolio Manage, he has to manually enter fuel oil and water for the last fiscal year. The Doosan Fuel cell is now moving forward, which should be installed by the fall. The Water Pollution Control Facility uses 30% of the total energy for the City and there is no upfront cost to the City for installation. In the future Dave would like to see more of these installed, smaller units could be used at various locations such as City Hall or the Library.

The Mayor discussed Covanta who will be holding a public information meeting next week on their industrial waste permit, as they will now be bringing in medical waste to the plant here in Bristol as there are no facilities in the State of CT, RI or NK. Ray stated this will eventually increase the Host fee the City receives from Covanta and help with the recycling payment.

The Mayor noted for the next agenda the Commission will discuss Sustainable CT and Green Banks.

7. Adjournment

Tom Ragaini made a motion seconded by Sheldon Scott "to adjourn" at 7:51 p.m.

Jodi A. McGrane
Recording Secretary