

TOWN OF BEDFORD
February 25, 2016
ENERGY COMMISSION MINUTES

ROLL CALL: A meeting of the Bedford Energy Commission was held on Thursday, February 26, 2016 at the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Road. Present were Rob Grogan (Chairman), Chris Bandazian, (Town Council), Bill Foote (School Committee), and Kevin Flynn

Chairman Grogan opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and introduced the commission members. Shana Potvin (Vice Chairman), Melissa Stevens (Town Council Alternate), Andrew Gillis, and Sanyukta Bansal were absent.

Chairman Grogan stated I have the 2015 Energy Commission annual report completed and have submitted it to the Town Clerk.

Town Projects:

a. Status of Library HVAC:

Councilor Bandazian stated weather permitting; we may have groundbreaking for the geothermal sometime in March.

b. Net metering cap updates:

Chairman Grogan stated HB 1016 is in debate at the State House, and as of February 17th it was amended to a 100 megawatt cap. From the committee it will then go onto the floor for a vote. There is the potential that EnergySource and all others have met the cap and if the 100 megawatt is approved, all other companies will hit the cap and no new participants could sign up.

Councilor Bandazian stated it was good to see a lot of businesses come out in support and it impressed the Legislature that many jobs have been created. This is a good program and a growing area. Chairman Grogan stated it got support within the Town for energy projects, and we can hope as the year progresses that it goes higher.

Councilor Bandazian stated there was an effort to sunset the renewable energy fund and it didn't make it through the committee. There is one other bill requesting to disperse all renewable energy funds and deplete it but that did not go through.

c. Transfer Station Recycling #s:

Chairman Grogan stated I included the last numbers for 2015 in the Commission's annual report. Seven out of 12 months exceeded prior year's highs. We are making progress. Councilor Bandazian stated the January numbers were the worst they have been since we have been recording the numbers. It was down 3 percent over last year, although some of those numbers get moved out over course of year. The trend in scrap metal continues to rise, although we are making a lot of trash and not recycling as

much. Year over year our averages have improved, so we can see that the behavior is slowly changing.

Commission Member Updates:

Chairman Grogan stated we have two positions expiring this year. Those are my position and Mr. Gillis' position. We have three permanent and two alternate positions up for appointment. If you have friends that may be interested, please encourage them to apply.

Branding / Marketing and Town Website / Facebook Page Updates:

No update on this item.

Portfolio Manager:

No update on this item.

School Projects:

a. School / PTG Outreach:

No update on this item.

b. Student Reps:

No update on this item.

HAREI Partnership & Events:

a. Planned Energy Raisers:

Chairman Grogan stated the winter is slow for self-installs. There is a long line in the queue for the spring and summer of 2016. An aggregator website has been started to group all projects installed by HAREI and there are a lot more to add to it. It is sizable amount of capacity and is a great effort.

Bedford Green Business of the Month:

No update on this item.

Old Business:

Councilor Bandazian stated exemption for renewables is still up for discussion with the Town Council. It got tabled at the last Town Council last meeting. The current staff proposal is to phase everything up 20 percent a year, make it tax neutral and phase it out over five years. We are only one of two communities in the state that have a credit. Most all other communities treat it as tax neutral.

Councilor Bandazian stated the State will be going through another cycle of renewable energy grants.

Approval of Minutes:

There were no minutes available to approve.

New Business: None

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Mr. Foote to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m. Mr. Gillis duly seconded the motion. Vote taken - all in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by
Valerie J. Emmons