

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
ENERGY COMMISSION MINUTES
June 30, 2016
BEDFORD MEETING ROOM
10 MEETINGHOUSE ROAD**

ROLL CALL: Present: Shana Potvin, (Chairman), Chris Bandazian (Town Council), Bill Foote (School Liaison), Christine Donati, and Matthew Pitaro.

Chairman Potvin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and introduced the members of the commission. Jim Aguiar (Town Council Alternate), Kevin Flynn, Andrew Gillis, and Courtney Gray (Alternate) were absent.

1. Town Projects:

a. Library HVAC/Geothermal Update:

Councilor Bandazian stated the project is going along very well. All the work in the public spaces has been completed. There is further work to be done with the utility room and that has to be completed within the next two to three weeks. At that time they will start the testing and fine tuning of the system. The Town's consulting engineer from CSI Engineering, LLC did a presentation to the library staff, and that has been posted on our Facebook page and can be accessed on BCTV Channel 16.

b. Legislative Updates:

Councilor Bandazian stated the Legislature is done for the year, so we are current with all updates.

c. Transfer Station Recycling:

Chairman Potvin stated for the month of May single stream was at 14.05 percent, which is less than last year and the year before that. Councilor Bandazian stated scrap metal numbers are up again. The bin for scrap metal is not in the normal flow for people to access so it is good that residents are making their way to the bin. Also, scrap metal is actually something that brings in some money.

2. 2016 Focus Areas:

a. Transfer Station:

1. Recycling Sign Donated by Spectrum:

Chairman Potvin stated Ms. Donati got the sign to me, and I brought it up to the transfer station. Hopefully it will be posted soon.

2. Solar TV Monitor (running/content):

Mr. Foote stated I believe Vice Chairman Gillis said the TV died due to being out in the elements. Chairman Potvin stated we will work at trying to get that up and running again as soon as possible.

3. Solar on Landfill:

Councilor Bandazian stated I believe what has stalled any action on this is the lack of three-phase power at the landfill. Over the next five years the Town will come to some kind of conclusion on the future of that facility, so I'm not sure that five years from now three-phase wiring is going to be a complete necessity as it is now. The Town has been putting money aside for whatever steps are taken with the facility in the future.

b. Schools:

1. Recycle Bowl – Keep America Beautiful:

Chairman Potvin stated I got a response that they are going forward with this. They were going to be updating the website within a few weeks and registration would open in October. Mr. Foote stated it might be hard for the teachers who are interested to get this together for the school year. Both the teachers and School Board members were interested in the project. Chairman Potvin stated I will try to get something to Mr. Foote for the July 11th School Board meeting.

2. Styrofoam Trays in Schools:

Chairman Potvin stated in the past it was initiated by the Girl Scouts because they were bothered by the Styrofoam trays. They were told that the cost would have to be passed on in the lunch prices. I tried to find some information on this. Last time we were talking about the change in price going from Styrofoam to paper trays. We looked up the bulk price of recyclable, compostable trays and I believe we found that it would add \$0.20 to each meal or maybe less. Also, the supplier would have to be a school approved vendor. It would be nice to know what the difference in cost from our current vendor would be. Mr. Foote responded I can check into that.

3. School/PTG Outreach:

Chairman Potvin stated I spoke to Lisa Nash about the PTG Outreach and they are interested in it. If it does happen, they are willing to give us their input.

4. Student Representatives from BHS:

Chairman Potvin stated I will contact Mr. King to see if he is interested in pursuing anything for the upcoming school year.

c. Solar UP Bedford:

Councilor Bandazian stated this is not going to happen this year. I didn't think we would be eligible but they have gone into an extension period and we could apply next year. We didn't think we could double what we have, which is a requirement, and the process was too involved to accomplish anything by their deadline. We will have to inquire early, and we will have to do an RFP. Mr. Foote stated I know we have to select a vendor from an approved list. I wanted to mention that this was a wild success last year in Goffstown.

3. Branding/Marketing & Town Website/Facebook Page Updates:

Chairman Potvin stated I continue to update Facebook with material that comes to me.

4. Portfolio Manager:

Chairman Potvin stated I can see if Mr. King is interested in pursuing anything on this in the upcoming year.

5. HAREI Partnerships & Events:

a. Planned Energy Raisers:

Councilor Bandazian state Vice Chairman Gillis has the information on this, but I do know that they have quite a list of projects lined up so far.

6. Bedford Green Business Award Nominations:

Councilor Bandazian stated I know there was talk that Target was going to be doing something, but I don't know where they are with that. Chairman Potvin stated I talked to the Town Assessor and he said that Target did get a permit for \$1.5 million for solar. Councilor Bandazian stated we should have them come in and do a presentation.

Chairman Potvin stated with there being a lot of construction and/or renovation along South River Road it would be interesting to see if any of those businesses are utilizing new energy efficient technologies as part of their projects. I thought it was very interesting how Whole Foods incorporated materials from the old building into the new building. We might want to investigate that.

Chairman Potvin stated I was talking to the Manchester Food Coop people about their capital campaign to renovate Harvest Market. They are interested in our green business award and asked what our parameters are. We don't have any at this time, but I think we should develop a list so there is some backbone to it. The list could include things like recycling, building envelope, renewables, local purchasing, Energy Star, LEED certified buildings, energy efficient lighting, HVAC, etc. This is something we should continue working on.

Councilor Bandazian stated I was thinking we might have a plaque made, along with the certificates, with small brass tags recognizing the different businesses that we award Bedford Green Business to. Maybe it could be posted in the Town Hall where there is more foot traffic and there would be a better chance that it might be seen by more people.

7. **Old Business:** None

8. **Approval of Minutes:**

MOTION by Chairman Potvin to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2016 Energy Commission meeting as written. Councilor Bandazian duly seconded the motion. Vote taken; motion carried, with Chairman Potvin and Ms. Donati abstaining.

9. **New Business:**

a. Councilor Bandazian stated I think we should elect a new Chairman and Vice Chairman since Mr. Grogan stepped down.

Councilor Bandazian moved for nomination of Shana Potvin as Chairman and Andrew Gillis as Vice Chairman of the Bedford Energy Commission for the 2016 – 2017 term. Mr. Foote duly seconded the motion. Vote taken - all in favor. Motion carried.

b. Councilor Bandazian stated there are grant opportunities that come up at the last minute and we had one come up recently. Some of the grant funding is available for projects that are fairly significant, and one I see for Bedford that would be appropriate would be a pedestrian bridge over Route 101. The Town has to submit a letter of intent by tomorrow, and the deadline for submitting the application is September 1st. The maximum for a project is a million dollars, and it would be an 80/20 split with the Town. The bridge would include the infrastructure, with a ramp to Bedford Village Common, and then the Town would have to acquire some land on the other side, where it would then go to the little league field, with the total cost of the project being \$1.5 million. We could get a grant for \$800,000 and the Town would have to come up with the other half. The next steps would be engineering and to put together a budget. The State has done some engineering in the area, which we could use their data, and if the project happens, it could coincide with the rebuilding of Route 101 in that area. We will take advantage of applying for this grant, but it will take a lot of community support to make the rest happen. Decisions have to be made by September 1st and the Town Council has to commit to somehow funding the project either by budgeting for it, bonding or surplus, although the expenditure may not hit until some future year. The letter of intent will be going out tomorrow.

Adjournment:

MOTION by Councilor Bandazian to adjourn at 7:42 PM. Mr. Foote duly seconded the motion. Vote taken - all in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by
Valerie J. Emmons