

TOWN OF BEDFORD
February 25, 2021
ENERGY COMMISSION MINUTES

A meeting of the Bedford Energy Commission was held on Thursday, February 25, 2021 via the Zoom Meeting Platform.

Present: Tim Paradis (Chair), Lori Radke (Town Council Alternate), Bill Foote (School Board Liaison Alternate), Chris Bandazian.

Absent: John Russell (Vice Chair), Denise Ricciardi (Town Council Liaison), John Schneller (School Board Liaison), Andrew Gillis, Bing Lu, Bart Fromuth, and Tom Elwood.

Chairman Paradis read the following statement:

Due to the state of emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe this meeting which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's emergency order; however, in accordance with the emergency order I am confirming that: A) We are providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access live on BCTV Comcast Channel 22, or streaming online by going to the town website and choosing "BCTV" under "Departments" and clicking on "Channel 22". We are utilizing an online platform called Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the Commission have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform. The public can call into this meeting via the instructions that are being shown on the BCTV broadcast. B) We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using the telephone which is listed at the top of the agenda on the town website; C) If anybody has a problem accessing the meeting via the phone, please email us at bctv@bedfordtv.com. In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote. Let's start the meeting by taking roll call attendance. When each member states their presence please also state whether there's also anyone in the room with you during this meeting which is required under The Right to Know Law:

Lori Radke (alone); Chris Bandazian (alone); Bill Foote (alone), Tim Paradis (alone).

- I. Call to Order: Chairman Paradis opened the meeting at 7:00 PM
- II. Quorum Count: (5) – There was not a quorum this meeting, so no votes could be taken.
- III. Approval of Minutes – January 28, 2021 – Unable to approve minutes due to no quorum.

IV. Guest Speaker: Joshua Singer, Clean Energy New Hampshire

Knowing they weren't going to have a quorum, Chairman Paradis postponed this guest speaker until the March 25, 2021 meeting.

V. Reports of Members and Committees

- a. Legislative update – No report was given in Ms. Ricciardi's absence.
 1. Clean Energy NH Bill Synopsis and 2020 Summary Webinar
- b. School projects – Mr. Foote indicated there was nothing new to report.

VI. Old Business

- a. Solsmart – www.thesolarfoundation.org
 - A. Start with Bronze level
 - B. Get on Town Council agenda for application

Ms. Radke reported that she has been working on drafting a letter to Solsmart, which is the second part necessary in beginning to become involved with this organization. Sending the letter will start our process of receiving Solsmart designation. Our goal is to first achieve the Bronze level first. Some of the goals she placed in the letter are:

- 1) To develop a streamlined process for solar permitting or inspections.
- 2) Expand and communicate solar finance options for residential or commercial property.
- 3) Install solar energy systems on local government facilities.

The letter is requesting a contact person and the group determined it should be the Chair or Vice Chair, and whenever there is turnover in those roles we would update.

- b. Electricity Usage
 1. EV charging stations from Bart, Andrew John
 - A. Updates from Tesla where they will build the station and we can bolt on non-Tesla charging stations
 - i. <https://www.tesla.com/charging-partners>
 - B. <https://evcharging.enelx.com/juicestand-pro-ev-charging-station>

Chairman Paradis stated that there have been emails done back and forth about having a charging station built in Bedford. Many car companies are expressing the desire to have fully electric fleets by 2025 or 2026. It seems to be an endeavor the Energy Commission will have to work on in conjunction with the Town in order to have electrical vehicle charging options for residents if it is not going to be done through private means or at gas stations.

- c. Solar Farm at the Transfer Station – No report was given in Mr. Russell's absence.

d. Town Pool PV Shade/Shelter

1. Update from Chris meeting with Dave Gilbert and Jeff Foote

Mr. Bandazian reported that Dan Weeks from Revision Energy circled back about the pool building which would require re-roofing. At the same time Mr. Bandazian communicated this, Todd Zollman, Facilities Director for the Bedford School District was also overseeing re-roofing of some buildings in the school district, so Mr. Bandazian is unsure if anything has come of this in terms of synergizing the roofing work.

Mr. Bandazian stated that Dan Weeks at Revision Energy felt the project was too small to get investor interest, so he asked whether 3 projects could be bundled to make it more viable. Mr. Weeks said there would be interest in bundling 3 projects. Public Works needs to make a roofing decision about whether they advance it a few years or not. After the budgetary Town meeting, Mr. Bandazian feels it would be appropriate to sit down in late March with someone from the Town Council, Jeff Foote, Director of Public Works; Rick Sawyer, Town Manager; and someone in the Finance Department to see how they would like to approach these not-very-expensive projects and determine which way they would like to get the projects done, and then we can report on it at the next Energy Commission meeting. Chairman Paradis volunteered to attend the meeting in order to learn more.

e. Public Works Highway Garage PV Vehicle Port/Shelter(s)

Mr. Bandazian said at the last meeting, the Energy Commission voted to recommend to the Town Council that they move forward with the Public Works Garage and Safety Complex Rooftop PV. He communicated this to Jeff Foote, Director of Public Works and Rick Sawyer, Town Manger and Town Council Chairman, Dave Gilbert.

f. Municipal Aggregation Cost Analysis and Presentation (Tim, Andrew, Bing, Tom)

Chairman Paradis reported that we are in a holding pattern in regard to municipal aggregation given some of the bills that are out there and given some of the bills proposed by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Next month when the Energy Commission meets, Ms. Ricciardi, and our Guest Speaker Joshua Singer can provide updates on that.

VII. New Business – Nothing to Report.

VIII. Reminders: Next upcoming meeting is March 25, 2021.

IX. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn by Ms. Radke at 7:13 P.M. Seconded by Mr. Foote. Roll call vote taken- Motion Passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tiffany Lewis