

TOWN OF BEDFORD
ENERGY COMMISSION MINUTES
JULY 27, 2023

A meeting of the Bedford Energy Commission was held on Thursday, July 27, 2023 in the Town Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Road. Due to technical difficulties, there was no audio associated with the video recording (see attached email from Bill Jennings, dated July 27, 2023).

I. Call to Order: Chairman Russell opened the meeting at 7:02 PM.

Present: John Russell (Chair), Chris Bandazian (Vice Chair), Carolyn Mahoney, Matt McLaughlin, Bing Lu, Jeanne Walker (Assistant Town Manager).

Absent: Sue Thomas (TC Liaison), Lori Radke (TC Alternate), Bill Foote (SB Liaison), Mindy Bator (SB Alternate), Chuck Nettleship.

II. Approval of May 25, 2023 Minutes

MOTION by Mr. Bandazian to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Mr. McLaughlin. Vote taken – Motion Approved unanimously.

III. Approval of June 22, 2023 Minutes

MOTION by Ms. Mahoney to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Mr. McLaughlin. Vote taken – Motion Approved unanimously.

IV. Approval of July 13, 2023 Minutes

MOTION by Mr. McLaughlin to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Ms. Mahoney. Vote taken – Motion Approved unanimously.

V. Reports of Members and Committees

a. School projects progress and planning

- 1. Progress with systems upgrades** – Update postponed to next meeting
- 2. Portfolio Manager** – Update postponed to next meeting

VI. Old Business

a. Solar Project Update

Mr. Bandazian explained that there had been a review meeting with Rick Sawyer - Town Manager, Jeff Foote - DPW Director, Chris Bandazian, Jeanne Walker, Denise Nobert - DPW Business Manager and Beth Greenblatt - Beacon Integrated Solutions, to review the bids received for the Solar Photovoltaic array at the closed landfill. Ms. Greenblatt summarized the bidders' information, similar to what the Energy Commission had done at the previous meeting. He explained that the goal was to achieve the maximum output that gives them the best value over

time. Ms. Greenblatt had explained that the different outputs were influenced by the number of panels, the azimuth and the module tilt. At the review meeting it was decided to have an individual meeting with each bidder so they could clarify some things and introduce themselves. It is important for each bidder to commit to achieving the maximum tax credit benefit and was worth re-examining.

After the interviews, scheduled to occur on August 7, the DPW Director will recommend awarding the contract to the selected vendor and go to the Town Council for their approval.

Mr. Russell expressed interest in convening a special meeting of the Commission on August 10 for the purpose of providing their recommendation of award to the Town Council (for their meeting on August 16). Ms. Walker cautioned that if something came up to delay the selection committee's recommendation, the award could be postponed until the Town Council's meeting on September 13. It was decided that the August 10 meeting would be cancelled if this occurs.

b. Compactors

DPW has a price proposal to install the compactors, but needs the 3 phase power to be installed first. Mr. Bandazian inquired about the possibility of applying the compactor project for the fourth round of funding from the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA). Ms. Walker would look into it. The application deadline is September 15, 2023.

c. Eversource 3 Phase Power Update

Eversource has installed several of the poles. Unfortunately, they encountered ledge preventing the installation of some of the poles. They are waiting the services of one of their subcontractors to install the remainder of the affected poles.

d. Community Power Initiative: Discussion regarding RFP vs. CPCNH

A presentation from CPCNH will be requested for a future meeting.

e. Solsmart

Bronze level has been achieved. In order to qualify for silver, the Town needs to hold two training sessions for Building Department and Planning Department staff. At that point, Bedford should qualify for silver status.

f. Website Review – No further changes requested at this time

g. Message Signage at the Transfer Station

Additional research on costs must be performed.

VII. New Business – No new business was discussed

VIII. Reminders

The next two meetings of the Energy Commission are scheduled for August 10, 2023 at 7:00 pm and August 24, 2023 at 7:00 pm. –Dependent upon the schedule of award for the Solar Photo-Voltaic System on the capped landfill.

IX. Adjournment

**MOTION by Mr. McLaughlin to adjourn at 7:36 PM. Seconded by Ms. Mahoney.
Vote taken. All in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Walker, Assistant Town Manager

Jeanne Walker

From: Bill Jennings
Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2023 8:07 PM
To: Rick Sawyer; Coleen M. Richardson; Andrew Fenn
Cc: Jeanne Walker
Subject: Energy Conservation Meeting BCTV Volume Issue

Hello All

Unfortunately we did not have audio for a good portion of the energy commission meeting tonight. We worked on trouble shooting the issue which eventually required us to turn the complete system off. The energy commission was made aware of our issue. After the system was rebooted we did have audio and the system was up and running. However the meeting ended shortly after everything was up and running. We recorded less than 10 minutes of the meeting...if that.

Jeanne and I talked about the meeting and she indicated it was a general discussion meeting. She will be typing up the meeting notes.

Since it was a short meeting and we only recorded the last few minutes we have no plans to add it to our VOD library.

Our problem has been identified and the faulty equipment will be replaced and a switch added to insure that audio issues are resolved without turning the entire system off.

Sorry again Jeanne

Bill

Bill Jennings
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