

Minutes  
AGENDA

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 6/12/17  
TIME: 11:10AM  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Sustainability Committee  
Tuesday, June 7, 2017 at 7:30 PM  
Flaherty Room – Seymour Town Hall

**Members Present:** Rory Burke, Stephan Behuniak, Joey Ortiz & Dustin Zrelak

**Members Absent:** Len Greene Jr.

**Others Present:** Samantha Sojka of Eversource

**Item #1: Call meeting to order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM.

**Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance**

All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Item #3: Public comment**

There was no public comment.

A motion was made to add to the agenda: Discussion with Samantha Sojka of Eversource.

**Motion:** Stephan Behuniak

**Second:** Dustin Zrelak

**Vote:** 4-0

**Discussion with Samantha Sojka of Eversource**

Samantha Sojka - Samantha is a team leader with Energize CT, a ratepayer-funded program through Eversource. Seymour joined the Clean Energy Communities program in 2013. The goal is a 20% emissions reduction by 2018. 159 of 166 towns (3 aren't eligible because they have municipal generation). Only 8 municipalities have achieved the 20% reduction. Eversource will conduct free mailings to publicize the program as well as other efficiency programs, but they take about 6 weeks to produce. The first step is benchmarking Town buildings. Energize CT will assist and has software to facilitate. Electric and gas data are automatically transferred, oil has to be transferred manually. The data is analyzed for efficiency rather than usage. Once they are indexed and if they reach 75% they're eligible to apply for an Energy Star rating for free. The Town has a \$10,000 Bright Ideas Grant for efficiency projects (cannot be used for renewables). The Town gains points for residential, commercial and government participation in efficiency rebates and programs. Each 100 points earns one \$10,000 grant, up to twice per year. Seymour currently has 155 points. Common ideas for the Bright Ideas Grant include light bulb swaps (5 bulbs per person) and subsidizing home energy solutions (HES) visits. A bulb swap would be about 4 points. Other special projects that would be awarded points include establishing a sustainability committee, mentioning HES audits at Solarize workshops, etc. HES visits are usually arranged via partnerships with audit providers. Payment is issued straight from Eversource to the contractor. Other ideas are municipal building projects, especially lighting since it's considered low-hanging fruit. There is also a K-12 educational program called EE Smarts that brings students to the Energize CT Center in North Haven and Eversource will cover up to \$250 of the cost of the trip.

The Committee discussed the distribution of the \$10,000. They agreed that since the Town has \$1.5 million bonded for building upgrades, the Bright Idea Grant's funds should be distributed to the public for efficiency upgrades since it would help secure the second grant most quickly.

A motion was made to recommend funding 75 HES audits at a cost of \$9,300 with the remainder (\$700) going to a light bulb swap.

**Motion:** Rory Burke

**Second:** Stephan Behuniak

**Vote:** 4-0

#### **Item #4: Election of officers**

A motion was made for Rory Burke to become chair.

**Motion:** Stephan Behuniak

**Second:** Dustin Zrelak

**Vote:** 3-0-1 (Rory Burke abstains)

A motion was made for Joey Ortiz to become vice-chair.

**Motion:** Rory Burke

**Second:** Stephan Behuniak

**Vote:** 3-0-1 (Joey Ortiz abstains)

A motion was made for Dustin Zrelak to become secretary.

**Motion:** Rory Burke

**Second:** Stephan Behuniak

**Vote:** 3-0-1 (Dustin Zrelak abstains)

#### **Item #5: Assignment of charge from First Selectman**

Rory read the charge: The Sustainability Committee is a 5-member appointed committee charged with generating, evaluating and assisting in the execution of sustainability projects, policies and partnerships to benefit the Town of Seymour and its residents. The Committee will look to implement recommendations of Seymour's Plan of Conservation & Development, the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection and the Environmental Protection Agency with a focus on savings for residents and taxpayers. Initiatives shall focus on efficiency, conservation, recreation and encouraging all things local.

#### **Item #6: Ongoing Projects**

Rory provided updates on the LED streetlight conversion, proposed sustainability upgrades for municipal buildings as part of the \$1.5 million in bonding, garbage & recycling and Solarize Seymour.

#### **Item #7: Potential Projects**

The committee discussed ideas including working with land use commissions to implement sustainability recommendations from the Plan of Conservation & Development, installing bike racks, anaerobic digestion and others.

#### **Item #8: Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Item #9: Open discussion**

There was no further discussion.

**Item #10: Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion:** Joey Ortiz

**Second:** Dustin Zrelak

**Vote:** 4-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 PM.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rory Burke". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Rory Burke