

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, October 27, 2015 @ 5:30pm
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room

Members Present: Carole Williamson, Carol Coley, Andrea Drabicki, Bryan Tarbell.
Lisa Napolitano arrived at 5:44 pm.

Also Present: Town Administrator Natasha Nau.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm.
2. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** None.
3. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - 3.1 **Eversource Clean Energy Community Silver Award:** N. Nau announced that the Town received the silver award on October 14, 2015 from Energize CT for Columbia's participation in the clean energy program. N. Nau explained that over 700,000 kw hours have been saved going off of the base year of 2010.
 - 3.2 **CIRCA grant application re-cap:** N. Nau shared with EAC that she submitted the grant on October 15, 2015 and that she has asked for \$35,000 for the purchase and installation of a generator at the Beckish Senior Center. N. Nau explained that a quote in the amount of \$52,000 was provided by Zelek Electric. The town will be required to match approximately \$17,000. N. Nau stated that the timeline for this project will be July 2016.
 - 3.3 **Showcase Eversource Clean Energy Community Program:** Discussion amongst the EAC included advertising on the town website, the Chronicle and the Crossroads. However, N. Nau shared that November 2015 will be the last edition of the Crossroads. Therefore, the town is considering creating its own newsletter. She stated that it would be much smaller (approximately 3-5 pages) and would be produced electronically on a quarterly basis. EAC suggested asking the school to advertise on its website and in the Porter newsletter. N. Nau also discussed new avenues for getting word out: 1) mass email notifications, which is a new function on the town website 2) N. Nau will be creating a Facebook account for the town. 3) N. Nau will contact Eversource to see if part of Bright Ideas grant dollars can be spent on "publicity" i.e. bulk mailers.
 - 3.4 **CIRCA grant re-cap:** (See item 3.1)
 - 3.5 **Eversource/Energy Star Portfolio Manager Presentation:** N. Nau gave a visual presentation on the functionality of the Portfolio Manager log-in and showed what kind of energy data is available and the types of reports we can run and would want to post on the website as PDFs for residents to view.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - 4.1 **Public Relations efforts for Columbia's Eversource Clean Energy Community (ECEC) participation:** (See item 3.3)
 - 4.2 **ECEC workshop on 11/10/15:** N. Nau stated that part 2 of the 2 ECEC workshops will be held on November 10TH. She will attend this along with George Murphy and Laurence Fearon to work on the next steps to take on how to proceed with spending the Bright Idea grant dollars. EAC has been invited to attend this workshop.

- 4.3 Senior Center free energy audit and Horace Porter School re-commissioning:** N. Nau stated that Eversource engineer feels as though the free energy audit would be most beneficial at the Senior Center and that Porter School should look into re-commissioning. Re-commissioning consists of installing equipment/systems, testing them and identifying problems and correcting the problems for quality assurance.
- 4.4 HES (Home Energy Solutions) audit awareness campaign:** N. Nau explained that residents may be eligible for free home energy audits and the EAC members discussed possible avenues to make them aware of this opportunity.
- 4.5 Webinars attended by N.Nau: re-cap:** N. Nau discussed a webinar she took part in that discussed environmentally friendly cleaning products.
- 4.6 Creating an EAC log-in for the Town website (GovOffice):** N. Nau stated that she feels it would be beneficial for the EAC members to be able to access the EAC page on the Town website and make updates as they feel appropriate. She stated that there is not enough time in the Administration office to give this webpage the attention she would like.
- 4.7 2016 EAC Meeting Schedule:** This ITEM has been TABLED.
- 5. ADJOURNMENT:** MOTION to adjourn at 6:46 pm. and the MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.