MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING HELD MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M., ROOM 210, 84 SOUTH MAIN ST, CHESHIRE, CT 06410

Present: Rich Ogurick, Chair; Ryan Shannon, Marj Chapman; Chris Smith, Vice Chair

Absent: Matthew Smith, Ryan O'Grady

Staff/Guests: Ray Harris, Deputy Director of Public Works; Fiona Pearson, Town Council Liaison

I. CALL TO ORDER

Rich Ogurick called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chris Smith arrived at 7:01 p.m. A quorum was present.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Rich Ogurick acknowledged a member of the public in attendance. Mike Turaj then introduced himself and provided a brief background, highlighting his ongoing work in the energy sector.

Fiona Pearson informed the Energy Commission that Mike Turaj would be nominated for appointment as a commissioner the following week.

Rich Ogurick shared that Daniel Knudsen has resigned from the Energy Commission due to a recent move out of Cheshire.

Rich Ogurick introduced Marj Chapman as a new member of the Energy Commission. Marj Chapman provided a brief background and highlighted her passion for sustainability-focused work.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rich Ogurick noted that the agenda required an amendment, as it incorrectly reflected why certain meetings did not occur. He clarified that the November 24, 2025 meeting did not occur due to a lack of quorum, and the January 26, 2026 meeting did not occur due to winter weather.

A. October 27, 2025

MOTION by Ryan Shannon to approve the Meeting Minutes of the October 27, 2025 meeting as presented.

SECONDED by Chris Smith. All in favor, the motion **PASSED** unanimously.

B. November 24, 2025 – No Meeting
C. January 26, 2026 – No quorum
D. February 23, 2026 – No Meeting

V. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Letter from Patrice Gillespie regarding the Clean Energy Action Center
https://www.pacecleanenergy.org/ceac-launch/

Rich Ogurick briefly discussed the email received by Patrice Gillespie.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Community Pool

1. Cogen utilization rate

Ray Harris confirmed the pool work has been completed, but the boilers are not yet fully optimized and have been performing inconsistently. As a result, an accurate cogeneration rate cannot be quantified until the pool is fully operational.

Ray Harris further explained that an insufficient gas supply could be the cause of operational challenges and as a result, Eversource will conduct a review of the system to determine if the gas supply is sufficient.

Rich Ogurick expressed concern that the $250,000 project has not yet produced the intended cost savings on monthly bills.

2. Maintenance of cogen system – status of new vendor - Ryan Shannon

Ray Harris reported that the status of the maintenance contract with the new vendor was unclear. He further noted that responsibility for pool maintenance may shift from the Parks and Recreation Department to the Public Works Department. This decision will be solidified when the FY 2026-2027 budget is adopted.

Fiona Pearson left the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

B. New municipal energy efficiency/cost savings opportunities – Chris Smith

1. New ESPC – status of Investment Grade Audit (IGA)

Chris Smith provided a status update on the IGA and expressed cautious optimism on the project's progress. He explained that delays to the IGA were primarily due to $6 million in solar rebate funds related to the school construction project, which required a signed legislative change to reappropriate the funds.

Ray Harris confirmed the IGA is 99% done and will be completed soon now that the solar rebate issue has been resolved.

2. JCI fast track proposal for fuel cell at CHS and solar panels on six schools

Ray Harris explained that there have been challenges incorporating the fuel cell into the project due to its cost and the need to install a gas line.

Rich Ogurick inquired about the timeline for the solar part of the project considering the changes to federal rebates. Chris Smith responded that, to his understanding, materials need to be ordered by July 1st.

3. Financing

Ray Harris explained that financing lapsed due to the solar rebate delay, but new financing should be secured soon without issue.

4. Timeline for balance of project – full scope recommendations

Chris Smith and Ray Harris shared that they plan to attend the next subcommittee meeting that will cover the project timeline.

Ray Harris explained that the project is awaiting approval for state Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) for the solar part. If JCI does not receive the approval, the project plan and timeline could change.

Rich Ogurick asked when cost savings are expected. Ray Harris estimated seeing cost savings in the form of reduced energy bills in 9-18 months.

C. Energy (EUI) and /Environmental (LEED) standards for new building construction and major building renovations in Cheshire

    1. Incorporate proposed standards into Cheshire's POCD – https://www.cheshirect.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1550/Cheshire-PoCD-Final-Draft-11262025_No-Markup

    Rich Ogurick explained that Daniel Knudsen previously handled this item, but he is no longer on the commission.

    2. PZC public hearing 2/9/26

    Ray Harris explained that there is a draft POCD on the table which had a public hearing in February. He noted that he is unsure of the document's status with the Town Council.

D. Energy Star Portfolio Manager

    1. Matthew Smith needs access to Portfolio Manager

Ray Harris explained that he has still been unable to get a response from the person who provides Portfolio Manager access. The commissioners discussed the possibility of creating a generic account for the Energy Commission rather than using individual accounts.

2. Sustainable Cheshire – action Items for recertification – Matthew Smith

Rich Ogurick inquired about the status of the silver certification. Ray Harris confirmed that the bronze recertification was obtained last year. While the transition from bronze to silver is a complex and involved process, work on achieving silver is actively ongoing.

E. Renewable Energy

1. Charging Smart Program – Ray Harris

Ray Harris explained that the Planning Department still needs to provide the data to finish the questionnaire, but they have been backlogged due to staffing.

F. BOE Projects

G. PBC Projects

1. New boilers at Cheshire Police Headquarters – include in ESPC?

Ray Harris confirmed the new boilers will be in the ESPC.

2. HVAC renovations at Cheshire Youth Center - design review 10/22

Ray Harris reported that the project design is nearly finished and that the budget still needs to be presented to the Town Council. He clarified this item is not included in the ESPC since HVAC is being added.

H. Grants, Rebates, & Utility Programs

1. Early involvement of Eversource in all town building projects

Rich Ogurick asked whether Eversource can provide consulting services for the town. Ray Harris explained that Eversource does not provide direct consulting; however, once a contractor is selected for a project, they must use all available programs and rebates.

I. School Modernization

1. Construction update – on schedule for target occupancy September 2026?

Ray Harris reported that, to his knowledge, the project is on schedule.

Rich Ogurick expressed interest in doing a walkthrough to see the school construction progress. Ray Harris explained that the School Modernization Committee would be able to assist with coordinating a walkthrough.

2. Net zero status (with solar)

Rich Ogurick asked how close the town would be to net zero if the solar project is successful at both new schools. Ray Harris stated that he was unsure.

Rich Ogurick asked who will own the solar panels and Ray Harris confirmed the town would own them.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2026 meeting dates

The commissioners reviewed and discussed the proposed 2026 meeting dates.

MOTION by Ryan Shannon to accept the proposed 2026 Energy Commission meeting dates as presented.

SECONDED by Marj Chapman. All in favor, the motion **PASSED** unanimously.

B. New member introduction - Marj Chapman

C. Election of officers

Rich Ogurick and Chris Smith discussed leadership roles. Rich Ogurick indicated uncertainty about being renominated for the Chair position, while Chris Smith expressed interest in serving as Chair if needed. Further discussion is needed, and a decision will be made at the next meeting. The commissioners agreed that the current Chair and Vice Chair appointments will remain pro tem.

Rich Ogurick confirmed that Walter Gayeski is no longer on the commission.

D. Conflict of Interest form

Ray Harris explained that the Conflict-of-interest form was for review only unless it had not been previously signed.

MOTION by Ryan Shannon to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

SECONDED by Chris Smith. All in favor, the motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Attest: BCampbell

Brittney Campbell, Minutes Clerk