

Public Hearing – June 16, 2014

First Selectman Schlag called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 P.M. at the TH for the following purpose.

Notice is hereby given there will be a Public Hearing on Monday, June 16, 2014 at 6:00 P.M. at the Town Hall, 21 Field Park Drive, Haddam, CT for the following purpose: - Solar PV Permitting Fees Ordinance.

TOWN MEETING: The electors and citizens qualified to vote at Town Meetings are hereby warned and notified there will be a Town Meeting held on Monday, June 16, 2014 at 6:45 P.M. at the above location and to vote to accept the following ordinance.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN MEETING OF HADDAM THAT:

(A) Section 4 of FEES FOR PROCESSING shall be amended with the following addition:

(B) For all Class 1 renewable energy systems as defined in the Conn. Gen. Stat. §16-1(a) (26), the building permit fee shall be waived.

Section 1. Purpose.

It is the purpose of this regulation to reduce the cost of solar PV system installations and promote the use of renewable energy. This Ordinance seeks to:

- (1) Provide property owners and business owners with flexibility in satisfying their on-site energy needs.
- (2) Reduce overall energy demands within the Municipality and promote energy efficiency.
- (3) Streamline the permitting process for rooftop solar PV systems by updating regulations and administrative procedures related to rooftop solar PV permitting and fees.
- (4) Support the Municipality's conservation and sustainability goals.

Section 2. Applicability.

- (1) This Ordinance applies to solar PV systems modified, upgraded or installed after the effective date of the Ordinance.
- (2) This Ordinance is effective as of date of adoption unless another date is otherwise specified.

Section 3. Permit Fee.

For all Class 1 renewable energy systems as defined in the Connecticut General Statutes, the building permit fee shall be waived.

Section 4. Licensing.

For solar energy work, our Municipality does not require any community-specific licenses over and above current State of Connecticut licensing requirements defined by the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection.

Dated in Haddam, Connecticut this 3rd day of June, 2014.

There were residents who have already signed up for the program who spoke about their personal experiences. Schlag stated the towns of Haddam and Killingworth joined this State program and chose BeFree Solar as the designated installer to give residents the opportunity to go solar if they choose and help them by waiving the building permits fees to install the system. Schlag stated we cannot waive the State permit fee, which is based on 26 cents per \$1,000. The permit fees are based on what system the resident chooses. Some residents have chosen to do a ground mount system. Diane Murphy, Building Dept. Admin. Asst. stated that if a resident chooses to put in a ground mount, their application must go to P&ZC for approval.

Schlag stated you do not have to go with BeFree Solar; you may choose your own company and still get the fees waived. Also, it was suggested that everyone do an energy audit with CL&P of their homes.

Several residents thanked Schlag for the article in the Bulletin and getting the town on board with a solar program.

Mark Lundgren moved to adjourn the Public Hearing at 6:40 P.M. to then go to the Town Meeting to vote on waiving the fees. All approved.

Minutes taken by – Alice Zanelli