

Sterling Board of Selectman and Economic Development Commission  
Special Meeting Minutes of **August 20, 2015**

**Attendance:** Selectmen - Russell Gray and Lincoln Cooper.

Economic Development Commission Members - Geoff Cooper, Scott Blinkhorn, Neil Cook, Cindy Donall, Ross Farrugia, Ulric Deojay, Judith Andrade, Andre Benoit and Andrew Hatfield.

**Absent:** Selectman, John Firlik.

**Audience of Citizens:** Dale Boisselle, Marlene Cook, Charlie Corson, David Held, and Michael Licamele III (7:20 p.m.).

**Item I: Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Geoff Cooper at 7:00 p.m.

**Item II Lot 30AA and Lot IP 16- Renewable Ventures, LLC- Proposal to Lease:** D. Held of Provost and Rovero, Inc. presented an overview of the project they would like to undertake at the site currently owned by Re-Energy as Re-Energy is looking to sell the Sterling property. Renewable Ventures, LLC would like to purchase the plant, reactivate it using a new process to recycle tires that is more efficient and better for the environment. The primary reason that the company is interested in buying the Re-Energy plant is the 60 megawatts interconnection to transfer the power to a substation located on Black Hill Road in Plainfield. The tire recycling plant, when operating at peak capacity, produces a maximum of 25 megawatts leaving a large amount of potential for additional power to the grid. They need to lease enough land to accommodate 150-200 acres of solar panels to maximize the capacity. They would like to maximize the power output with solar power. They are interested in long term leases for 5 Exeter Drive, Map 3842, Block 17, Lot 30AA (54.36 acres) and Map 3842, Block 17, Lot IP16 (8.31 acres), as well as several other lots in Sterling. Renewable Ventures, LLC have talked with several of the land owners. They intend to lease the land with long term leases (20 year minimum) to build the solar farm. The first step of the project will require wetland delineation, aerial topography as well as approval of the CT Siting Council. This is a rough site for topography and wetlands but Renewable Ventures, LLC feel that there is enough suitable land available to move forward. The taxes generated from the solar farm would possibly match the current level of what Re-Energy is now paying.

M. Liamele discussed the technical aspect of the changes that would need to occur in the power plant before the new process can begin. The power plant would no longer be burning tires to produce energy; it would be melting them in an oxygen free environment called gasification. The tires would be heated and broken down into components (oil, steel, syngas and black carbon). The oil and steel would be sold, the syngas would power the turbines, and the black carbon would be initially a waste product. The plant would require 5-10 million dollars to bring it back online. This is an environmentally cleaner process than what had been being used. The process is a batch process so there would not be the need to store large amounts of tires like in the past. The process is in use in other parts of the world but is not commonly used in the United States. Renewable Ventures, LLC have run 75 test batches and have all the data to support the proposed system to the State.

N. Cook made a motion, seconded by G. Cooper to grant Renewable Ventures, LLC permission to continue to move forward with this project. All voted in favor.

**Item III Adjournment:** G. Cooper made a motion, seconded by N. Cook to adjourn at 7:55 pm. All voted in favor.

Submitted by,

---

Dale Boisselle  
General Office Assistant

