

## MINUTES

### THE NORTH HAVEN CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE MEETING

Date: May 5, 2008

Location: North Haven Rec. Center

Present: Hugh Davis, Letty McPhedran, Paul Coella, Diantha Thorpe, Kenny Foscue, Mary Mahon, Maurice Libson, Nick Gill, Shelley Wheeler-Carreiro, Walt Heinig

Next meeting: 7 PM, June 9, North Haven Rec. Center.

Notes: Letty will be away from May 14 to June 8; Nick asks that members use his new email: [nick\\_gill19@yahoo.com](mailto:nick_gill19@yahoo.com).

#### **Action Items (summary):**

Letty: Will ask Community Energy

1. to send a representative for a training session at June 9 meeting;
2. for help in making up talking points list;
3. to send volunteers to help man tables with NHCETF at community events;
4. to personalize a sign-up form for us based on the current form.

Bruce: Do press release re: Project Green grant for newspapers.

Kenny: Will put NHCETF information on Town website, including minutes through May 5 and a PDF of the Clean Energy Sign Up sheet. Man table on the Green for Memorial Day with Diantha.

Mary: will ready letter for grant committee to mail late May to solicit new grant interest.

Hugh: Make sure Project Green at the high school receives its grant money in June. Also contact Bob Wall to find out his previous estimates of Clean Energy costs for the Town. Talk to Ed Sinkowski to see cost of Clean Energy to the Town.

Diantha: Get hours of Memorial Day doings and inform Kenny; folding table from Mary; materials together for Memorial Day Sat. the 24<sup>th</sup>; work table with Kenny on the Green.

All members: We need volunteers to write columns for newspapers; to man tables at town concerts; to man tables on Election Day; to spread word to friends in nonprofits that grant money is available.

#### **Meeting Activity:**

Centered on committee reports (see below); general discussion of Town budget with no provision for Clean Energy (see *Government Liason* committee below); general discussion of Sterling vs Community Energy and sign-up sheets.

### *Community Energy vs. Sterling Energy:*

CE, represented by Mark Garrett, pays directly to the Clean Energy sources themselves for new projects; is slightly less expensive than Sterling; has good outreach; is more responsive; does not need the account numbers of new sign-ups; if Town signs with them we will get \$20 each for new sign-up. CE will do a direct mail campaign this fall.

Sterling, represented by Cat West, is an energy broker; is hard to reach; and pays \$15 for each sign-up, each year. No one has asked if they will forego account numbers of sign-ups. Sterling offers hydro while CE does not.

Discussion centered on whether we should enlist people for CE only, and if we should recommend it to the Town over Sterling. Questions were about limiting choice for sign-ups, and if DEPUC will offer new choices in July, when the new Clean Energy program will come out.

It was resolved to continue using our own sign-up form offering both options, for now, and Letty will ask CE to personalize a form for us.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### Outreach

Purchased a 6' x 2' banner reading "Clean Energy Now!" and bearing the name of the task force for \$125.

Letty and Diantha ran a table at the Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce Business Expo at the Holiday Inn, April 23. Solicited 2 sign-ups, which were given to Hugh May 5. Report of Expo was sent to all members by email.

Inquired about tables for Town events from Eileen Pettit who gave permission but had no free tables. Mary has offered one for task force use. Diantha has all materials, including sign.

#### Publicity and Education

The three town newspapers will run our "Clean Energy Now!" column. The *Citizen* has a Green Energy Living issue coming out at the end of May.

Letty needs members to sign up for monthly columns for Sept., Nov. and Dec. So far we have Letty for May, Kenny for June, Nick for July; Maurice for August, Diantha for October. Hugh suggests tying local topics into larger concepts, ie: global warming, energy independence, pollution abatement, etc.

Kenny has readied material for Town website and will post shortly.

#### Grants

New grant letter to go out by end of May. Project Green to be given grant money in June. Project Green's activity ongoing in door to door solicitation, and projected solicitation at Stop n Shop.

Government Liaison

The Town did not include money for clean energy in the present budget and it is too late to add it. The Town had an energy audit made and is spending money to follow those recommendations, so it is unlikely that any funds from other sources will be appropriated to fulfill the commitment to 20% Clean Energy by 2010 made in 2007. Because of this, we cannot receive the solar panels we have earned with our sign-ups, as they are predicated on the Town fulfilling 5% of its 20% obligation. We must therefore lobby the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance to make sure this obligation is fulfilled. The implicit promises we are making to people about solar panels are jeopardized by the Town's lack of action in this respect.

*Questions:*

How much more money does the Town have to pay for Clean Energy, now at 5%, and next year, at 20%? Bob Wall, formerly of Connecticut Innovations, estimated about \$1,000 extra per month. For 20% or 5%? Hugh to find out.

How much energy and therefore money would be saved by installation of solar panels, ie: would earned solar panels offset extra Clean Energy cost?

If extra Clean Energy cost is as low as \$1,000/month, or \$12,00/year, can't these funds be found elsewhere in Town budget, as they are minimal?

Meeting adjourned 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diantha Thorpe