

Minutes: North Haven Clean Energy Task Force Meeting

6/9/08

Location: North Haven Rec. Center

Present: Hugh Davis, Letty McPhedran, Patricia Brown, Kenny Foscue, Mary Mahon, Shelley Wheeler-Carreiro

Next Meeting Date: July 14th

Of Note: Mark Garrett of Community Energy did not show up. He was supposed to conduct a training on clean energy.

Outreach:

- A report was made on the Memorial Day Parade table on May 24. Diantha, Kenny and Hugh covered the table. 2 people signed up for CleanEnergy Options and information was distributed to several people.

- Summer Concerts: The Summer Concerts are coming and we are planning to have a table at each date. 2 people will be at each date and are to try to arrive at 6 pm. We are trying to have a “lead” (experienced) person and an assistant. The assistant will take home the materials and if possible be the lead at the next date. Here are the dates and those signed up so far:
 - 6/24: Hugh Davis/Patricia Brown
 - 7/1: Patricia Brown/Mary Mahon
 - 7/8: ?
 - 7/15: Kenny Foscue/Erin McDonnell
 - July 22: Erin McDonnell/Bruce Crowder
 - July 29: Bruce Crowder/?
 - August 5: ?**Call Letty 239-0734 to sign up for empty times**

- Discussion of talking points: There was a discussion of key talking or “selling” points for people to use in getting people to sign up. They include:
 - The cost to consumers who sign up is only a penny per kilowatt or \$4 – 7 per month
 - People who sign up are doing something specific and immediate to address both energy independence and global warming
 - You get free CFL bulbs when you sign up (Note: it is important to get a quantity of bulbs to the tables this summer, etc)
 - For every 100 North Haven people who sign up, the town gets 2 solar collectors – this will cut down costs for the town budget
 - There are specific things people can do immediately to offset (and even lower your bill more) of signing up. We have a list of 25+ things to do.
 - The Task Force will get \$10 for every person who signs up for Community Energy

Grants:

- Project Green: So far the students have only been able to sign up 7 for clean energy. It was suggested that the students be encouraged to help with the concert table, including distributing a flyer to concert goers to visit the table. Hugh will contact Anthony Giordano at the High School about this.

- The new grant request letter to encourage groups to apply for funding is done. It is to be sent to 18 non-profits in North Haven.

Publicity and Education:

- As noted above, Mark Garrett did not come to conduct the training. He will be contacted about coming to another meeting **[by whom?]**
- Task Force Newspaper Column: The first article, by Lettie McPhedran, came out in the 3 local papers in May. The second article by Kenny Foscue has just been published in 2 papers. Maurice Libson is to write the next article for August. Other task force members are encouraged to sign up to write columns.
- The Clean Energy Task Force web page is up on the Town web site. It was suggested that the newspaper column be posted or linked on the web page.

Government Relations:

- Superintendent Sara Querfeld had Project Green students on her Cable TV show.
- The North Haven Registrars will allow the Task Force to have tables and literature at the polling places during the November election.
- In order for the Town to receive the solar collectors, the First Selectman needs to work with the Clean Energy Fund to work out details
- It was proposed, discussed and decided that the Task Force will ask the 3 Selectmen to write a letter to North Haven citizens strongly encouraging them to sign up for the clean energy option. This letter will be publicized widely.
- In order to strengthen and improve our selling points to convince residents to sign up, we need to find out:
 - What is the Town's kilowatt hours' usage and cost (some progress has been made)?
 - How much does each operating solar collector save the town?

Other:

- Hugh Davis will be writing the Task Force semi-annual report to CT Innovations in the next few weeks.
- There was a discussion of recruiting additional members of the Task Force, with an affirmation that this was a good idea.

Action Items:

- Kenny Foscue will contact Bob Wall of CT Innovations about estimates of how much each solar connector can save the town
- The government relations subcommittee will contact the Town Selectmen to request they sign a letter encouraging all city residents to sign up for clean energy. The letter is to be distributed to local newspapers, and discussed on cable TV shows.
- Hugh Davis to speak to the Project Green contact about encouraging assistance at the concert table.

Meeting adjourned 8:45
Respectfully Submitted,
Kenny Foscue