

CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE MEETING

October 19, 2009

Library Conference Room

Present: Hugh Davis, Chair; Kenny Foscue, Vice Chair; Letty McPhedran, Mary Mahon, Sarah Baird, Sharon Huttner, John Herpok, Jackie Ladutko, Diantha Thorpe, Maurice Libson, Alex Johnson, Anthony Giordano

Meeting opened at 7:05 p.m.

Announcements:

Next meetings will take place on November 9, 7 pm at the Rec Center; and December 14, location to be announced.

Reports:

Hugh and Letty attended the workshop on solar panels. Janet McCarty was there and presentation was made by John Rountree, town engineer. North Haven will receive a 3 KW solar system (three panels), which provides 36,000 KW annually, by the end of the year. This is a \$30,000 system. Rountree will make recommendations as to where the solar panels will be placed, and the fire department, DPW garage, high school, and town hall have been mentioned.

The Task Force is unanimous in recommending the high school as the best location for the panels, as many of the clean energy sign-ups used to earn the panels were obtained by members of Project Green, the student environmental club.

The Task Force has about 250 sign-ups so far and has earned three panels. If we can collect another 30 or so sign-ups, Hugh says we'll be close enough to 400 names so that we may be eligible for installation of four panels, instead of three, by the end of the year.

Forty-one towns have now received at least one solar panel. Letty says that there is now a new requirement for further panels: the town must sign up for the EPA challenge. She will report on this next meeting.

Discussion:

A. Strategies to market the Clean Energy program to North Haven residents:

Mary: Noted that Branford was receiving panels.

Sarah: Find out how many sign-ups and panels other towns have obtained so we can put North Haven into a regional or state context, fostering competition.

Diantha: Will get relevant data for other towns from Bob Wall, Jillian Carbone and Clean Energy Fund website.

Sarah: Will write article based on this data

Sharon: Our message might be too abstract. Need ways to make it more concrete, ie: It Takes a Village theme.

Jackie: You are helping yourself, your town, the earth

Anthony: Perhaps have Project Green members talk in elementary schools

Alex: Or put on shows to demonstrate the clean energy mission to younger children, and provide handouts for them to take home. Or engage sports teams to do Comcast ads on the town channel before games.

Letty: There is a person at Yale who performs "clean energy" shows and she will find out who it is

Maurice: Money saved is a persuasive argument. He will find out how much the North Haven Racquet Club has saved in energy costs by using solar, and asked if there was any way to know how much fuel the Town has saved by the energy improvements it has already done.

Clean Energy Task Force Committees:

- A. Government – interacting with Town and State government
- B. Grants –
- C. Outreach
- D. Publicity and Education

Hugh suggested reconstituting the committees, but this was not acted upon.

Committee Reports:

Government Liaison

Sharon and Jackie need to be formally appointed to the Task Force. Mary will call Barbara Feinstein to see that this is done. Sarah has already been appointed. Otherwise activity as noted above.

Grants

Hugh has presented the semi-annual report on grants to the CT Innovations Grant Program.

Hugh gave an invoice for payment of \$590 for the Project Green spring initiative to the Town Finance Office.

Anthony will submit a new grant application on behalf of Project Green to cover Election Day initiative.

Publicity and Education

Diantha's article "The Ant and the Grasshopper" was published in the 10/09/09 *Citizen*.

Kenny suggested we sponsor a second forum in December on Solar Energy (This date was later amended to January or February). It was agreed we need to interest businesses more; perhaps involve the Chamber in some way. Kenny will act as forum chair; Mary will call speakers (suggestions included the owner of "Grow Solar" on Sackett Point Road; Theresa Viele's husband who has "greened" his business; someone from Covidien?; North Haven Racquet Club? Diantha will write the press release; Sarah will be on the committee to run the sign-up table.

Outreach

Recycling Center: November 14: Sarah and Kenny from 8:30 to 10:30; Jackie and Alex from 10:30 to 12:30.

Election Day, November 3: Anthony and Alex have 12 high school students signed up to cover three polling places: Montowese, Green Acres, and Clintonville. Schools will provide tables, Anthony has table cloths, Project Green will get make signs for the tables. Hugh will provide bulbs for sign-ups and leave them with Mary; Letty has literature. Bulbs will be distributed to Green Acres by Hugh; Montowese by Diantha; and Clintonville by Anthony. Bulbs will be picked up at 7:30 PM at Green Acres by Jackie; Montowese by Diantha; and Clintonville by Letty.

Hugh, Sarah, and Jackie may be able to cover Ridge Road part of the time and will confer about that.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diantha Thorpe