

## CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE MEETING

March 7, 2010, Library Community Room

Present: Hugh Davis, Letty McPhedran, Diantha Thorpe, Mary Mahon, Maurice Libson, Sharon Huttner, Kenny Foscue

Meeting opened at 7:15 p.m.

### Announcements:

Next meeting to take place on April 12, 7 p.m. in the Library Community Room.

Hugh noted that a reworked version of the semi-annual report of the Task Force was published in the *North Haven Citizen* in February, in a revised form.

Mary volunteered to store Task Force supplies at her house.

### Committee Work

Hugh raised an organizational issue about our committees that was not resolved.

Government Liaison: Hugh, Kenny, and Letty met with Michael Freda on February 19 to discuss the EPA Clean Energy Challenge. Freda was receptive to the town's subscribing to this but did not sign the letter. Subsequently he said he would do so on March 7 and send it in to the EPA on March 8.

The Challenge will send an intern to train an employee of the town in techniques for measuring energy use in order to establish benchmarks against which future energy loss can be evaluated. It is also hoped that we can determine the amount of energy being saved from the changes made in lighting in municipal buildings under the McCarty administration. Heating will be more difficult, as according to Freda these energy costs are "bundled" so it is hard to tell which buildings are more, or less, efficient.

Query: Under McCarty administration were thermostats turned down, or replaced? According to Roy Haller of United Illuminating at our last meeting, one problem is that steam heat is nearly impossible to regulate carefully, hence people use open windows to lower temperatures, thus promoting heat loss and higher energy costs.

Hugh talked with Mark Garrett of Community Energy, who said 4-5 people who had been solicited to sign up for clean energy did not adequately understand what they were signing up for, especially that there was a cost. Letty suggested we make sure our volunteers, and Project Green students, are provided with talking points to make clear what the clean energy option is. Diantha volunteered to do this.

According to Gillian Carbone of the Clean Energy Fund we now have 277 sign-ups as of December 31, 2009. Mark Garrett of Community Energy thinks that a possible 40-50 sign-ups have not yet been reported to the Clean Energy Fund by UI. Diantha will call Roy Haller at UI to ascertain if this is true. If so, the town has well over 300 sign-ups and therefore indisputably has earned four solar panels that were promised so long ago.

Task Force members were in general agreement in their frustration with the inefficiency of the whole process to which they have donated valuable time. Kenny will talk with Roger Smith and Steve Fontana about this, and further reported that Bethany, Amity, and Woodbridge have received a grant, and hired an energy coordinator to do the work involved. Mary thought Bob Wall

might be helpful, and finally, Hugh suggested we wait until April, when he returns from vacation, to pursue this matter.

Grants: Hugh reported that Project Green has been paid \$750 for their last grant, and that the Task Force currently has \$2,830.54 in its grant account.

Mary will contact Kathleen Kessler who has formed a committee to buy new playground equipment for the Clintonville School, to see if she is interested in applying for a grant.

Diantha suggested that any potential grantees be paid a visit by a task force member, who can explain the grant-making process, and how the clean energy option works.

Outreach: Earth Day (April 24, 10-1, Middle School)

We will have a table with literature and will sign up residents for clean energy. We need volunteers, and the names of Jim Reilly, Joe Baker, Lisa Manfredi, Ray Sola, and Lois Hartsoe came up as potential volunteers.

Hugh suggested we start working at the Recycling Center one Saturday per month, beginning on April 17. It was decided to discuss this at our next meeting.

Publicity: Letty will call the town TV station, and Alex Johnson of Project Green, to find out how we can get more exposure for the Task Force and for Project Green.

Sharon suggested that Anthony Giordano of the high school could connect us to film students who could create a continuous film loop with us and/or Project Green to be shown on the town TV station.

Letty made a new sign for the Green, to send residents to the first selectman's office for clean energy sign-up forms.

Letty is looking for more articles for the local paper; she will contact Jackie Ladutko for this.

Kenny has had the town website updated with all our newspaper articles, new members, etc.

Other activities: Letty and Mary will attend the Municipal Summit on Climate Change at Yale on March 13, and will report at the next meeting.

### **Summary of Actions to be Taken**

Letty: Find out about intern from EPA and how town appoints a committee; call town TV re: more exposure; contact Jackie Ladutko re: an article

Diantha: Draw up talking points for volunteers; call Roy Haller of UI about stalled sign-ups

Hugh: Talk to Ed Swinkowski about open house by Clean Energy Forum for townspeople re: solar panels

Kenny: Talk to Roger Smith and Steve Fontana for advice on inefficiencies of solar-panel process

Mary: Ask Sarah if she can help out in grants committee; contact Kathleen Kessler

Sharon: contact Anthony Giordano re: teaming up with H.S. film crew

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.