

CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE MEETING

April 12, 2010, Library Community Room

Present: Sarah Baird, Hugh Davis, Kenny Foscue, Sharon Huttner, Letty McPhedran, Diantha Thorpe

Meeting opened at 7:10 p.m.

The minutes from the March 2010 meeting were discussed and approved as amended.

Next month's meeting will take place on May 10th in the Library at 7pm.

Earth Day and Recycling Center:

Hugh asked for volunteers to man the Clean Energy Task Force table at the Middle School. Sarah and Mary will be there by 9:45am until 11:30. Hugh and Diantha will be there in other capacities. Hugh will ask for other volunteers to help for the 2nd part of the Earth Day celebration.

Diantha, Sharon and Kenny will volunteer at the Recycling Center on April 17th. Hugh will look for other volunteers. Diantha will purchase a folding table for NHCETF displays, and Hugh and Diantha will take charge of the sign up materials. Letty has a list of NHCETF supplies.

Solar Panels and EPA Energy Challenge

Kenny contacted Steve Fontana who confirmed that 4 solar panels will be installed this summer on the High School. Members of the task force felt strongly that the installation should be completed during the school year in order to involve Project Green and the entire student body and to raise awareness of the importance of signing up for Clean Energy. Kenny recommended that we contact our local elected officials to try to get this moving. If the installation is completed over the summer, the Task Force recommends that there is a well publicized unveiling in September with an ice cream party or other festive marker. Mark Garret of Community Energy reported to a member of the Task Force that some clean energy sign ups were still working their way through official channels.

Roger Smith, Coordinator of the CT Climate Coalition, sent an email that CT Clean Energy Funds are at risk due to budgetary concerns on the state level. Task Force members and others are urged to contact their local elected officials to protest any "raiding" of the funds.

Mr. Freda has sent in the first page of the EPA Community Energy Challenge. Hugh asked Valerie Goodkind at Mr. Freda's office about the 2nd page, but has not heard back. The 2nd page of the commitment is an analysis of the town's buildings. The Town cannot have the EPA intern come to help North Haven until the full commitment letter is received by the EPA. Eventually, 1-2 members of the NHCETF will join the EPA North Haven committee, including the person responsible for the benchmarking.

Task Force Business

Sharon suggested that we find engineers and other qualified people to join the Task Force and help to further our goals. Hugh noted that some towns band together to get a paid Energy Coordinator to help with grants and that the NHCETF should explore that as a goal. Sharon will look into the Middletown Task Force and energy coordinator and report to the committee. Diantha volunteered to attend another

Task Force's meeting and report back. Hugh will ask Mr. Freda to announce that North Haven is signed up for the EPA Challenge and put a note about the Task Force in his newsletters twice a year.

Grants: The Clintonville granting project has not moved forward. Nothing new to report.

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

Project Green students will attend to help sign up residents for the Clean Energy Option. Sharon will make nametags. Diantha, Mary, Sarah, Hugh and others will attend.

Recycling Center: Once a month, Task Force members will sign up residents at the Recycling Center.

Other activities: Letty and Mary attended the Municipal Summit on Climate Change at Yale on March 13. Letty reported that one of the main points taken away is that Global Warming is now called "Climate Change." The Task Force can post information about meetings and other events on the CT Climate Site, www.ctclimatechange.com. Roger Smith spoke at the summit about ways to improve Task Forces and their impact. He noted that it is important to: Have Goals, Set and Meet Deadlines, Advertise for new Members and find appropriate Roles for the Members. Letty and Sarah will meet to make up packets of these materials. Hugh will ask Mary to write up a column on the Climate Change Summit.

Sharon went to a Green Jobs New York meeting on March 23rd and learned about efforts to change the home stock in New York to make them more energy efficient. There are various ways to offset upfront costs of retrofitting homes.

Sarah will draft an article about insulating her home and its economic impact on monthly bills.

Next month the Task Force will discuss Kenny's idea about a Clean Energy and Economy and Insulation Forum in the Fall. The idea was floated to invite a School of Forestry speaker.

Mary is writing a statement about the NHCETF to be included in the town calendar and will create publication notices that the Task Force meets the 2nd Monday of every month.

Kenny asked if there is a more systematic way to sign up people for the Clean Energy Option, which could be part of our long-term planning process. We will develop a plan for our outreach and explore ways to be more visible in the community.

Diantha will draft talking-points, which can be used to facilitate greater exposure in the community.

Sharon will work on a calendar with Kenny and Diantha.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55.

Respectfully Submitted by Sarah Baird