

North Haven Clean Energy Task Force: Minutes

September 13, 2010

Present: Kenny Foscue, Sarah Baird, Letty McPherson, Lois Hartoe, Diantha Thorpe, Caroline Dumont, Hugh Davis

Next meeting: October 18 in the Rec Center, 7 pm

Meeting was called at 7 PM; minutes began at 7:25. We wish to welcome new member Caroline Dumont.

Guests: Sherry Borelli, Sr. Business Development Professional for UI; Kirsten Brooks, Head of Education for UI. UI is promoting clean energy as one of the partners with the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund. CEEF is an initiative to help homeowners, businesses, and municipals begin to use energy more efficiently. It offers a number of programs, some of which were discussed.

Borrelli took questions from members regarding such issues as the clean energy options insert in UI bills and the process followed in implementing the program for the applicant; other initiatives which she will discuss with Sarah Baird separately; and queries about the history of energy usage by the town of North Haven. Borrelli will send answers under separate cover.

Brooks, who is responsible for K-12 energy education, the Home Energy Center in Orange, and Home Energy Reports will be sending out a letter in December to 6,000 residents of North Haven, 2000 of which she will choose and 4000 of which will be at random. These letters will compare homeowner usage of electricity for two years, and will show how the homeowner compares to neighbors. There will be energy-saving tips as well. Both UI and NHCETF will be signatory to this letter, and many task force members asked to be part of the survey.

Questions:

Sarah: Will there be any offsets for low-income people to get the Clean Energy Option?

Brooks: They could use another generation company, such as Levco, to create savings to offset this. UI has to purchase large blocks of energy in advance at whatever price is operative at that time. Smaller companies can be more adroit, thus can save on generating costs.

Sherry will talk to Sarah about invitations?

Solar panels: Hugh spoke to Ed Swinkowski, who said installation of the panels on the high school are imminent. Gillian Carbone of the Clean Energy Fund says they will be responsible for publicity, along with the town. Letty asked who did the photos at the public ceremony. Hugh will email Gillian for exact date.

Sign ups: Sarah: Need to have T shirts to identify us while signing up new people. Kenny wants a calendar of where we will be for this purpose. Hugh will speak to Anthony Giordano of Project Green about having high school kids signing people up at polling places on November 2. Letty will create more signs for the town Green bulletin board.

Recycling: Kenny and Diantha on September 18; Sarah and Kenny on October 2; Hugh and Kenny of October 16.

Election day sign ups were discussed, and if Project Green can be asked to help out.

Grants: Mary to talk with Anthony Giordano about applying for a new grant for Project Green.

Sarah: Has done grant applications. Asks if we have thought of applying for grants for our own group.

Kenny: We thought of getting a grant in order to hire an energy manager we could share with another town.

Hugh: Roxanne in town hall is a grant writer. Letty has asked her for grants.

Forum: Letty asked if we could we hire someone to work on a Forum?

Sarah: We should canvass residents at Forum with a questionnaire. We need more data about what people do and do not know about clean energy.

Kenny: Roger Smith is coming at our next meeting. We can speak to him. Thinks we can have a forum with the Regional Council of Governments so create a larger mass. Possible Forum date would be January.

EPA Community Challenge: Letty; EPA has agreed to do benchmarking from Boston. Freda was to update information about town energy use and send it in. When this is done, energy audits will be made to determine which municipal buildings need work. Ed Swinkowski is the liaison.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Diantha Thorpe

