

North Haven Clean Energy Task Force Minutes October 16, 2010

Present: Hugh Davis, Kenny Foscue, Caroline Dumont, Diantha Thorpe, Letty McPhedran
Absent: Sharon Huttner, Sarah Baird, Jackie Ladutko, Mary Mahon, Maurice Libson

Guests: Lois Hartsoe and Roger Smith (rsmith@cleanwater.org)-his job description is “information clearinghouse to assist local clean energy task forces. Coordinates email list of clean energy task forces. Provides one-on-one assistance to towns and attends local meetings.”

Announcement: Next meeting is 7pm Mon. Nov. 8, 2010 at the Recreation Center
Diantha will soon send the minutes of September 13 by email.

Businesses with clean energy: Roger Smith’s two page email to us,” Commercial Clean Energy Proposal” started the discussion on how to get businesses to sign up for clean energy. If businesses sign up, we need to recognize them as North Haven signups. Hugh felt because the town has signed up, Selectman Freda might be able to encourage businesses. Sheri Borrelli (UI) will know what businesses have signed up. Hugh will ask Sheri. Hugh felt it is time to meet Mr. Freda, perhaps with Sheri and one of the committed business people; Mr. Freda might be asked to write a column, and then mail it out with a letter to businesses. Letty asked if Sharon Huttner could be part of the group who goes, as she signed up for the government committee.

There is a small business energy advantage program. Our group might personally set up appointments with the North Haven businesses that own their buildings. Covidian would be our biggest business and maybe the plant manager would be the person to meet with there. Roger urged us to set a goal of how many businesses by what date. No specific plan is in place. Roger suggested, as a source of information on business and clean energy:
www.ctcleanenergy.com

Solar Panels: Individual household’s solar panels count toward our points for free solar panels and this is done automatically if they take a rebate through CEEF. We have heard from Jillian Carbone of CEEF that the NHHS solar panels will be installed in early Nov. and after that several inspections and approvals have to occur before we celebrate. When this happens CEEF wants to be the major publicity generator, but Roger Smith encouraged us to take the initiative in advertizing, and write articles from our point of view. As questions arose during the meeting, Roger suggested each of us become familiar with the following websites:
www.ctcleanenergy.com and www.ctenergyinfo.com and www.westhartfordcleanenergy.org

Regional Task Forces work together: Kenny reported on the possibility of the New Haven Area Council; of Government (COG) hosting a meeting including Task Force members. Kenny would work on the agenda, perhaps with Marty Mador of the Hamden Task Force. Agenda would include 1. Sharing information 2. What we can do to get earned solar panels installed quicker. 3. Other items
Several task forces near us have banded together with the help of a grant to hire a manager

who would be a regional point person, and keep up to date. Roger felt the strongest communities to ban together with would be Wallingford, Cheshire and West Haven, but he will email Hugh on this issue. We would examine shared barriers and seek solutions, and as we've discussed, a shared forum on energy and the economy. Although there is a current freeze on the CEEF budget, there will be grants available.

Recycling Center work: Seven signups came from three Saturdays at the Recycling Center, including some help from Project Green students. Sarah Baird has provided T-shirts to identify us.

Grants: Mary reported by email that Project Green at NHHS has applied for a grant again. They get \$250 up front and \$10 for each signup for 50 signups. They will be covering all polls on E Election Day. We will try to have a task force member check in at each poll during the day: Hugh at Ridge Road, Mary and Letty at Recreation Center.

A question arose whether Sheri Borrelli was sending out our letter of requested sign-up with the letter to the 600 homes for energy audits. No plan was made.

For the meeting with Selectman Freda there are several issues:

1. For the EPA Challenge: Will there be people here in town to do the benchmarking, or would Mr. Freda like to send the information electronically to EPA Boston? (see email from Foscue dated 10-20-10 for information EPA needs) This process is needed before actual UI energy audits take place in 2011.
2. Explain the Commercial Clean Energy Proposal involving business sign-ups and ask his help
3. Discuss the celebration at NHHS after the solar panels are installed and approved. Mr. Freda will make decisions about who will attend from town staff.

We listed who we want there:

Selectman Michael Freda
Selectman Timothy Doheny
Rep. Steve Fontana
Sen. Leonard Fasano
Former Selectman Kevin Kopetz
Former Selectman Janet McCarty
Acting Superintendent Pat Brozek
Present & former Clean Energy TF members
Principal Russell Dallai
Director of Public Works Lynn Sadosky
Director of Finance Ed Swinkowski
Conservation Commission Members
UI Engineer Mike Doucette
C of C President Robin Wilson
Rotary President
NHTV
all local papers

NHHS Project Green members & Anthony Giordano, their advisor

All NHHS students

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Letty McPhedran