

North Haven Clean Energy Task Force Minutes

December 13, 2010

Present: Hugh Davis, Mary Mahon, Letty McPhedran, Kenny Foscue, Diantha Thorpe.

Meeting opened at 7:10 PM.

Announcements:

Hugh reports that according to Ed Swinkowski, the Town of North Haven has met its obligation of using 20% clean energy by the end of the year 2010.

Next meeting: January 10, 2011. Location to be announced.

Old Business

Minutes of previous meeting were approved.

Solar Panels: Hugh emailed with Rob Miller, project manager of Alteris Renewables, regarding installation of solar panels on the high school, and arranged for him to meet with Grant Peckham, facilities manager for the Board of Education. Task Force members voiced considerable frustration and anger about the fact that it has taken over a year to get a firm commitment about panel installation. Hugh will call Peckham to see what transpired, and Kenny suggested that we set up a meeting to voice our grievances with the Clean Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF). Several members offered to attend.

Grants: Mary has awarded a \$750 grant to Project Green, and Hugh should be hearing from them shortly regarding funds. Project Green will apply again for a grant in March 2011. They were largely responsible for 88 new sign-ups on Election Day and the Show and Sell session. As many of these were Community Energy sign-ups, Letty will call CE to find out when we will receive remittance from them for these.

EPA Community Challenge: Letty spoke with Linda Darveau, who still has not received information from Selectman Freda necessary for benchmarking. Letty will call Valerie at town hall to follow up; Hugh will meet with Freda and explain again that UI audits of the town cannot be done until benchmarking is done. It is unclear if Freda understands.

Sign-ups: As reported above, the work done recently on signing up residences has been extremely successful but we have not reached the business community in town. Hugh spoke to Sheri Borelli (Sr. Business Development Professional of UI) about this, and she says she cannot solicit businesses but will work with CEEF to show them what they can accomplish in providential energy use. She does not want to meet with Freda at this time.

Discussion involved having a public meeting to include CEEF and CEE to show town businesses how and why to sign up for the Clean Energy option; how to become energy efficient; and what benefits could accrue to them for doing so. Diantha suggested contacting the Chamber of Commerce in town to see if they would host a meeting for Sheri Borrelli to

come and do this; Hugh felt that we could get a list of town businesses from Freda; it was resolved that Diantha would contact the Chamber and feel them out about this.

Hugh wondered what the difference in sign-up credit is between a small business, ie: one-person firm, and a huge business like Covidien. Letty will investigate this.

New Business

Conference or Forum: Kenny talked with Carl Amento, former mayor of Hamden and now with Southern Connecticut Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) about holding a regional meeting of Clean Energy task forces and commissions. Amento felt 10-14 towns could be involved, and that he would get a smaller group of Clean Energy Task Force people together to discuss this possibility. Issues such as economic consequences of clean energy, coordinating outreach, what other towns have done are potential topics. Kenny will follow up on this after the new year.

Mary brought up our talks about a forum of our own in the Spring. Diantha felt we could revisit the topic of energy efficiency for town residents. Letty felt, and others concurred, that a Spring forum would not be necessary if we could work with the Chamber on a meeting for businesses, and if Amento can get a regional meeting off the ground.

Kenny noted a name for future reference: David Cooper, of the Center for a Sustainable Future at Gateway.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20.PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diantha Thorpe