

North Haven Clean Energy Task Force Meeting

April 11, 2011

Present: Hugh Davis, Kenny Foscue, Letty McPhedran, Maury Libson, Diantha Thorpe, Sarah Baird, Nick Gill

The meeting was called to order at 7:15. Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted. Next meeting will be on May 9 in the Rec Center, at 7:00.

TOWN

Solar Panel Ceremony will take place on April 15 at 2 PM in the high school courtyard. Speakers, set up by the Clean Energy Fund, will be Michael Freda, Hugh Davis, Russ Delai, Andrew Laduko, president of Project Green, and a representative of the CEF. Press releases have been sent out by CEF and Letty gave our news contacts to Jillian Carbone. There will be refreshments.

Letty says Kat West from Sterling Planet sent out an invitation to all who were signed up with their company; Mark Garrett of Community Energy says he might do the same.

Letty has sent a letter to the *Citizen* re: the ceremony; Caroline will write one, too. Maury will take photos, and Letty will bring a big sign to Earth Day showing what we have done.

Earth Day will take place from 5:30-8:30 on April 15. We will have a table run by Letty, Kenny, and maybe Nick Gill.

Town Energy Liaison/ Shared Energy Manager

On April 11 Kenny composed a letter which was co-signed by Hugh and sent to Mike Freda, requesting appointment of a town energy liaison. This letter, attached to these minutes, outlines the necessity of the First Selectman to act in order to take advantage of clean energy opportunities to benefit the town, and the savings such action would bring.

In respect to this, Nick Gill reported on the March 23 workshop sponsored by the DEP and Clean Air-Cool Planet, which offers energy benchmarking software training for communities. Nick spoke with Ed Swinkowski, finance director of North Haven, who was also there, and offered himself as a liaison to the town for this purpose. Swinkowski, who favors the idea of sharing an energy manager with other towns, is too busy to help on the town side, but will bring this matter to Mike Freda's attention.

Nick further pointed out that towns successfully implementing clean energy policies had an appointed liaison with town government, which North Haven does not, and cited one consortium of towns that had hired an energy manager with a stimulus

money grant. He also spoke with John Hall, community activist from Middletown, and Matt Dodge, their energy manager.

Letty had written to Linda Darveau suggesting things an energy intern could do in North Haven, but was informed that the intern had set responsibilities

Cheshire, West Haven, and Wallingford are towns we could form a consortium with, according to Roger Smith. Hugh and Kenny felt SCROG might help us get together with other towns for this purpose. Clean Air-Cool Planet offers a \$2500 grant, and the Clean Energy Fund offers grants as well. Letty suggested we have a grant proposal ready.

Hugh will set up a meeting with Michael Freda to discuss this.

Municipal Climate Change Survey: Letty will fill out and return this survey from the governor's office.

PUBLICITY

Facebook

Nick has set up a Facebook page for the task force: North Haven Clean Energy, and discussion centered around how we could spread the word on this. Suggestions ranged from handing out cards on the page at sign-up events; linking the town website, Sterling Planet, Community Energy, and Project Green to the page; writing comments and articles for it, citing it on our own Facebook pages.

OUTREACH

Business sign-ups

In order to involve more businesses in the push for clean energy, Diantha will contact Shari Borelli of UI to set up a meeting of both Hamden and Quinnipiac chambers of commerce with task force members. Diantha will also try to find out who is the best person to speak with at Covidien about their energy use, and will contact Robin Wilson of the Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce about writing something for their enewsletter.

Residential sign-ups

Hugh will call Jillian or Bob Wall to determine the number of sign-ups we currently have. He says we have 392 points.

We will talk to Anthony Giordano about having Project Green members signing up townspeople at the referendum at Clintonville School on May 17.

Suggestions for sign-ups: Football and soccer games in the fall (Sarah); no sign-ups at Recycling Center until June.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diantha Thorpe