

North Haven Clean Energy Task Force Minutes

May 14, 2012

Present: Kenny Foscue, Letty McPhedran, Sarah Baird, Mary Mahon, Caroline Dumont, Diantha Thorpe

The meeting was opened at 7 PM, minutes from last month were approved, and the agenda presented by Kenny Foscue.

Earth Day:

Caroline reported a total of 6 new sign-ups for the clean energy option. Of these payment for two will come to the task force. Mary signed up three people at the Garden Club.

Sign-ups:

Community Energy is giving \$25 per sign-up; 3D is giving \$30. Letty signed a partnership contract with 3D, which said it would be slow in payment as the signee must stay with 3D for 2 months first. Kenny and Sarah wondered if we should use that money as an offset incentive for residents to get home energy audits. We discussed if this could be considered a grant. Kenny suggested we table this discussion for next month. In the meantime Mary will find out what our financial position is, and what Community Energy owes us for past sign-ups. We give Project Green 2-3 grants per year.

Energy Savings Performance Contracting (ESPC) and Municipal Buildings

Sarah reported on the webinar about ESPC, which the DEEP will roll out at the end of July. This will provide a way for towns to get their buildings retrofitted—energy use, water, ventilation, building envelope, etc. It is an outgrowth of CT Public Act 1180. The state has put 6.8 million dollars into energy efficiency in a bill that is the envy of other states.

At the end of the summer CT will vet contractors for ESPC, and utilities will have to give towns 3 years of usage figures for benchmarks. The contractors will then give towns estimates for work needed to be done. There will be no upfront cost to the town; loans to the contractors will come from CIEFIA to be paid back by the savings the town realizes from the retrofitting. CIEFIA will provide tech support. This has already been done in Naugatuck, Stamford, and East Hartford.

Sarah has forwarded a summary of the ESPC to Mr. Freda. Letty suggested that we urge Mr. Freda to get the first municipal building audited by late July to position North Haven to take advantage of this program, and send Ed Swinkowski Roger Smith's May 14 email. Letty pointed out, however, that DCS had offered this sort of program before and that Mr. Freda had turned it down in spite of the fact it had no upfront cost.

Regarding energy audits of town buildings, Chris Fogg had pointed out that town employees must first be trained and be onboard for energy conservation measures in the workplace. The town needs to get behind this. Roger Smith has said he will train the trainers. Kenny pointed out that Eastern CT State University had energy programs and

perhaps could provide someone. Letty had already sent names for trainers to Ed Swinkowski and will follow up on that. Mr. Freda has left this in his hands so he is our point man.

Sarah said that tech support from ESPC will do the audits of our buildings. She will email Roger Smith to see who does the audits and will cc Letty.

Recycling Center: No one can work for sign-ups here in May so Kenny will see if Project Green can, and will call Nick Gill to see if he is able to as well. Mary said PG students got 3 sign-ups

Selectmen's Meeting

Attended by Letty, Hugh, and Mary. Mr. Freda featured the Task Force and asked for a report. Hugh gave a history, explained about sign-ups, etc. Letty presented Chris Fogg's report on benchmarking and left his report with the selectmen.

Anne DeMatteo of the *New Haven Register* gave Letty time to talk about sign-ups for the *Register's* website.

Regional workshops:

Caroline received a March email from Justin Haaheim of Clean Water Action re: workshops. We had felt a follow-up workshop was helpful 4-6 months after the previous one. She quotes him as saying there was no response; we should talk about it and get back to him. Sarah made the point that a regional workshop on the Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC, see above) was a good idea, so Caroline will suggest this to Justin for later in the summer. Letty thought the North Haven Library could be the venue.

Solar compactors:

Caroline reported that Mr. Freda liked the idea of Big Belly solar compactors but not when presented with the \$30,000 cost. Lynn Sadosky, Director of Public Works, and Roxanne in the Town Finance department looked into grants to purchase them but couldn't find any. Big Belly does lease the compactors but our town is not large enough for their lease program. Caroline wondered if instead we should start small, ie: with marked recycling and trash cans, and will look into small grants for same.

Other business:

Kenny asked what had happened to the idea of an energy manager position for the town. Caroline reported that Mr. Freda said he would talk to Hamden to see if we could share a person with them, but that there was no money for this position either.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diantha Thorpe

