

North Haven Task Force on Clean Energy

Scheduled Meeting of March 11, 2013

North Haven Recreation Center

Members in Attendance: Caroline Dumont, Letty McPhedran, Kenny Foscue, Richard LoPresti, David Yaccarino, Alex Powers, Tyler Smith, and James Fredericks

- 1) The new student members of the Task Force were introduced: Alex, Tyler, and James.
- 2) A general discussion of current events in the energy scene began with the cost of natural gas.

Richard LoPresti stated that natural gas costs about half of the price of home heating oil.

3) David Yaccarino, our state representative, explained in his report that bill HB6360 is under consideration by the General Assembly. It would expand natural gas pipeline service throughout the state. He indicated that “fracking” in Connecticut is suspect by some who would seek to ban it even though it is not currently practiced here. The cost of the natural gas pipeline would be \$2 billion minimum. David also reported that some farmers are producing their own energy, waste to biofuel.

Richard LoPresti indicated that only 30% of the people who live near existing gas lines are using natural gas. He said that the cost of a new furnace could be paid with UI on-bill financing so the cost could be spread over time. Richard also indicated that commitments would be needed to install the natural gas pipelines.

David Yaccarino said that the State of CT and customers would pay for the natural gas pipelines. He said the minimum cost would be \$2.7 billion.

Carolyn Dumont asked why don't the companies pay for the installation of the lines?

Kenny Foscue said there is too much emphasis on natural gas.

David Cooper stated that bio-fuels provide an alternative to existing homes that rely on home heating oil. Greenleaf and Apple Fuel Companies were cited as examples of this. Cooper also indicated that Exxon and British Petroleum are experimenting in Asia in growing algae for fuel for home heating oil furnaces. He said we can grow algae here for home heating oil and for many other applications.

Richard LoPresti said that another option is bulk waste to energy. He said that we should ask for an update from First Selectman Michael Freda on the plans for creating energy at the landfill near Universal Drive. Richard also said that Energy Commissions and Task Forces are

not mentioned in the current energy legislation under consideration by the General Assembly.

Kenny Foscue asked whether the Task Force seeks to take a position on the new energy legislation?

Richard LoPresti said that he owns an energy company that sells both oil and natural gas, and that he would take a position on the HB6360.

Kenny Foscue asked whether town energy task forces should be promoters of energy plans?

David Yaccarino said that natural gas is 20 times less polluting than oil.

Richard LoPresti stated that whether natural gas burns dirty or not that he wants stronger energy conservation.

Kenny Foscue said there is too much emphasis on renewables in the HB6360.

Richard said that the bill does not mention fuel cells. Those with interest in fuel cells should work with companies through the Department of Economic and Community Development.

4) Sarah Baird's agenda item was tabled because she was unable to attend.

5) Discussion continued on the need to compose and present for approval a municipal action plan. The signed and approved plan is a pre-requisite for the Town of North Haven to receive a grant from UI based on the number of points the town had accumulated.

Letty McFhedran had questions whether the correct buildings were included in the plan on pages 6 and 7. Letty and Carolyn Dumont agreed to review the agenda and prepare the Municipal Action Plan for the meeting with First Selectman Freda on April 3, 2013.

6) Letty McFhedran and Caroline Dumont reported on their Feb. 28, 2013 meeting with Philip Diana, Supervisor of Building and Grounds for the North Haven School District. They presented a report on their meeting and indicated that an energy manager would be hired and paid through energy savings by the North Haven School District.

7) Kenny Foscue presented information on the campaign he is promoting at the CT Health Department for the competition to recognize high performing Green LEAF Schools—Leading Education to Achieve Healthy Green Schools—through waste management, environmental health, healthy buildings, and healthy foods. Kenny said that schools are encouraged to apply for the Federal Green Ribbon Program. Three schools were nominated this year and the winners would be announced on Thursday following the Monday meeting earlier this week of the Task Force on Clean Energy. Kenny said that the Superintendent of

Schools, Dr. Robert Cronin, would be contacted to seek the participation of the North Haven schools in the program.

8) Richard LoPresti presented information on the C-PACE Program. He said that it is important to meet with the business community regarding this program. He offered to invite someone to make a presentation to the business community during April. C-PACE stands for Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy. It allows commercial entities to make installment payments on their tax bills for clean energy systems. Towns would collect the payments and forward them to the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority (CEFIA). CEFIA would be the responsible financial agent for this program. The Town of North Haven would be held harmless if it decided to participate in the program.

9) Letty McPhedran indicated that the meeting with First Selectman Freda would include the Municipal Action Plan, the plan to meet with the Superintendent of Schools, and the potential for economic development through the C-PACE Program.

David Cooper reported on the Gateway Community College-Wesleyan University Project to develop a clean energy module for high school students that would articulate with the college's education and training opportunities. This program is called "Empowering Success Through Clean Energy." David agreed to contact the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Robert Cronin, to invite the North Haven School District to participate in this program.

10) The Town of North Haven Earth Day event is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, 2013, at the junior high school on Bailey Road from 10 am – 2 pm. Hugh David will represent the Conservation Commission at the event. The Task Force on Clean Energy will have a table at the event as well as the Center for a Sustainable Future at GCC. Project Green, coordinated by Mary Mahan, will be featured at this event.

11) Under other business David Cooper stated the potential to create after school and summer clean energy programs for youth at the GCC Solar Lab on the campus at Bassett Road.

12) A webcast was announced for state and local government energy programs. EPA's State and Local Climate and Energy Program sponsor the program. The program is scheduled for March 21, 2013, from 1 – 2:30 pm.

The next meeting of the Task Force will take place on April 8, 2013, at 7 pm at the Rec Center. The meeting adjourned shortly after 9 pm.