

North Haven Clean Energy Task Force Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 7, 2013

7 -9:20 pm, North Haven Recreation Center

Task Force Members in Attendance: Letty McPhedran, Kenny Foscue, Caroline Dumont, Richard LoPresti, and David Cooper.

Minutes taken by David Cooper.

1) Meeting with High School Representative: Sue Iverson, one of the environmental teachers at North Haven High School, represented the math and science teachers at the high school who teach environmental related curricula. At the meeting she and Task Force members explored collaboration with the Clean Energy Task Force Members on several projects.

A project with great potential involves the energy and water use auditing of town buildings that will establish a baseline in energy and water use. This project involves the use of an energy-profiling tool made available by the Environmental Protection Agency that compares the use of energy and water in public facilities nationwide.

Benchmarking of town buildings being made available through the University of New Haven engineering student intern program involving Adam Siperrly, now underway.

Students could learn how to use this tool through a training session that would take place in one of the North Haven High School computer labs. There was discussion of possibly involving students in the data analysis process by volunteering community service time by sorting receipts and compiling data to be entered at the Town Hall. The Finance Department contact person at Town Hall is Josephine Landolfi. Letty indicated that in a visit to Town Hall with Adam Siperrly, boxes of records were provided by the Finance Department. These records will have to be sorted, entered, and analyzed.

Letty suggested that members of the Task Force familiarize themselves with the EPA profiling tool. She learned that the town is considering collecting energy and water use data every six months. Sue indicated that the project could excite the interest of some of the students in the two advanced placement classes that have 30 students per class. However, she cautioned that alternative energy represents only 10% of the environmental curriculum.

Sue also suggested making contact with Carol Addido, Dr. Cronin, the Superintendent of Schools, and Roxanne Bouchard, the town's grant writer for potential funding in new programming areas and possible collaboration in joint projects at science fairs.

Sue described the environmental classes as including two Level 2 advanced placement classes and one regular class. She thought that students in the advanced placement classes would be more open to involvement in projects. She explained that the level 2 courses include the study of ecology, pollution, habitat, energy, water, and environmental health.

Letty asked Sue how to approach parents. Sue responded by suggesting the North Haven News and Views, The North Haven PTA Council, and by contacting Patty Schiller at the NHHS library.

Letty described how a high school group designed and built a solar fountain made out of lego parts for a statewide exhibit. Sue stated that the AP class work required authentic projects that teach students how to work with data. She also indicated that the students use a 2004 textbook but must update examples used by collecting data from websites. Sue explained that students learn how to use the DC Energy Resonance Open Source (EROS) software. The curriculum, she said, also includes a mock town meeting based on the environmental review of North Haven conducted by Upjohn (attached).

Letty proposed and Task Force members agreed to invite students to join the Task Force for training on the use of the EPA Portfolio Manager (profiler), and that we reserve a computer lab at the high school for the training. The Task Force agreed to contact Mike Ducett, the main engineer, on the recommendations of the Task Force and present this information to Chris Fogg.

Kenny suggested that at the forthcoming meeting with First Selectman Mike Freda that the recommendation be made that students should be allowed to perform community service by sorting and compiling energy and water use data at the Finance Department in the Town Hall. The suggestion also was made to explore this proposal with the Finance Department. The next town energy benchmarking is scheduled for March or February 2014.

2) Energize North Haven:

Coverage at Football Games: The Task Force agreed to promote the Energize North Haven Campaign along with the high school group Project Green at Friday night football games. The Home Energy Solutions vendors, Lantern Energy and Next Step Living also agreed to staff the exhibit. (Following the October 25 game, the suggestion is made to bring leftover Halloween candy to the games. We need to provide an incentive to visit the table. Otherwise, people just walk by.)

Letty, October 25, 6:30 pm (David and Richard substituted)

Kenny, Nov. 8, 6:30 pm

Carolyn, Nov. 15, 6:30 pm

3) First Selectman's Letter of Support: First Selectman Michael Freda will write a letter to town residents to support the Energize North Haven campaign. The letter will be finalized and distributed following the October meeting with Michael Freda.

4) Community Forum: Kenny suggested doing a forum so people could learn about our programs. Forum topic ideas included:

UI could present with Lantern Energy and Next Step Living.
Roger Smith could be invited to make his presentation on energy conservation.
Project Green could be invited to make a presentation. Anthony Giordano indicated that the students want to do more than football games.
It was agreed to make Project Green a priority item for discussion at our next meeting.
Kenny agreed to contact Anthony to get input from the students in Project Green.
Caroline suggested posting news on North Haven News.com.

5) Resource Distribution: The proposal was made and approved to distribute certain awards the Task Force receives for meeting and exceeding our campaign targets to non-profits. The whole Task Force will be polled to determine which non-profit would be selected in this round.

6) Infrared Camera: Letty initiated a discussion on the benefits of assessing energy insulation properties on town buildings. If the state will pay with the infrared imaging throughout town the Task Force recommends signing up.

Next Meeting: Because of Veterans Day conflicts the next meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for November 12, 2013, at 7 pm at the North Haven Recreation Center.