

NHCETF Meeting Minutes for December 9, 2013

Present: Amy Thompson, Adam Sipperly, David Cooper, Letty Mcphedran, Caroline Dumont, Hugh Davis, Sheri Borrelli, Richard Lopresti, David Yaccarino, and Kenny Foscue.

November 2013 minutes reviewed and approved.

Benchmarking and Clean Energy Communities program:

- Presentation by Amy Thompson (System engineering at UNH) and Adam Sipperly (UNH intern moving to a new position). Some handouts and Powerpoint presentation made.
- The EPA Portfolio manager is benchmarking tool that allows year-to-year, monthly, or seasonal trends in energy usage to be tracked. Also allows national comparison of similar buildings, based on the year it was built, and what type of building it is. Adam described benchmarking process (see Page 4 of handout). 14 of 27 properties in the handout were North Haven municipal buildings and start date was set as 2009.
 - Biggest energy usage (2012-2013) was by the High School, Middle school, and WPCF (water purification plant). The town can make the biggest impact by focusing on the largest consumers of energy. Graph on Page 11 of the handout again demonstrates that the high school by far has the biggest energy usage and cost, largely due to its size. Interestingly, Green Acres Elementary shows a significant drop in energy use from 2012 to 2013, whereas Ridge Road elementary has an upward trend over the same period.
 - Page 12: Breaks down the % of each fuel type (propane, oil, natural gas, and electricity) being used by buildings in 2012-2013.
 - Page 13: gives the buildings EPA energy star ratings. 0-100 scale with >50 being above average and <50 performing below average. Good PR for town if building when EPA rated >75. Sheri noted that Green Leaf grants are available to engage schools in benchmarking. Amy discussed that many factors influence energy use including the building's foundation, insulation, lighting, behavioral influences such as off-peak activity.

- Page 14: Shows trends in energy use each year, such as Ridge road increasing and Green acres decreasing.
- Page 15: kBtu/ft² compared to the national average. Negatives indicate better (lower) consumption compared to the national average.
- Page 17: Greenhouse gas emissions (positives indicate increase reduction). North Haven saw a 9.3% overall reduction of emissions. Sheri noted this was pretty good for the town.
- Page 18: Weatherized versus non-weatherized data (takes into accounts seasonal variations in energy use, and we can target issues with buildings not in use during the summer for example. Using 2009-2010 as benchmark year we decreased energy usage by 5%, but using 2010-11 as benchmark yr shows a 9.04% decrease by 2013. Thus using 2010 -2013 looks better, and still 3 years of data.
- Overall most buildings showed a small decrease in energy use. Many had significant improvement in energy performance, the biggest one was the police department.
- Continuity of the benchmarking process - some ideas were discussed: Caroline agreed to be the point person during the time that Adam Sipperly finishes his work and Jessica Zieliuski starts on this project. We discussed that the EPA (Linda Darveaux) may be able to train the North Haven high school students to enter the data for the upcoming six months. Also, discussed possibility of identifying a town employee either in IT department or finance, who could access the computer system and enter data (energy bills) bi-yearly into Portfolio Manager more easily than task force.
- Per Sheri and Amy the report and presentation we received at this meeting is only a draft and UI (Mike Doucette and Larry May) still need to review the data. After that point a meeting can be set with first selectman Mike Freda. Adam and Amy were unable to comment on what to contribute any improvements on energy usage to in these buildings.
- HES Campaign:

- First Selectman approved the letter to be sent out in the new year.
- The sign up about campaign is on the green as of Dec 9th.
- Unfortunately Project Green and Mr. Giordano were not interested in HES canvassing around town.
- Forum set February 1st 10 am to 1 pm in the library community room. Discussed idea of inviting one versus both of the companies (Next Step Living, and Lantern energy). Sheri noted that it might be more straightforward for one company to be present.
- There has been some frustration on the side of task force members and Sheri/UI in terms of this campaign not moving along as smoothly and effectively as it could. We all agreed that increasing communication in between meetings is necessary for something like this. She has addresses for canvassing and 2 vendors set to go, but has not been able to move forward.
- Forum:
- Advertising ideas for forum include
 - Dave Yaccarino having a segment about it on NHTV in early January. He could interview task force members about the campaign and forum.
 - Press release to newspapers.
 - Margi Mclure could run a story.
 - Email blast
 - Need to come up with other ideas of how to make a splash and increase enthusiasm.
- Vendors and Anthony Giordano to be invited to next meeting January 13th and help set agenda for the forum.
- Presentations at forum to include overview by Sheri, CEC, and energy efficiency fund, and maybe one vendor at the event. We also discussed that it would be nice to have a solar company and CEFIA speaker at the event (residents need HES audit to be solar eligible), but Sheri emphasized that HES is main priority. There should be no pressure on residents but helpful for them to know about going “deeper and broader”.

Meeting with Mr. Freda: Wednesday January 8, 8;30 am.

- Discuss benchmarking
- Programmable Thermostats
- HES Forum
- EV charging stations
- Green skies solar array

Minutes respectfully submitted by Caroline Dumont 1/5/14.