

## NHCETF Meeting Minutes for March 10, 2014

Present: Letty McPhedran, Hugh Davis, David Cooper, Richard LoPresti, Sarah Baird, Ben (from Next Step Living).

Sarah volunteered to take the Minutes.  
Introductions were made around the table.

The February 2014 minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously.

1. Ben summarized the HES process to date. The vendors were thinking about ways to help the Task Force in the campaign. Ben identified three possible, broad strategies as follows: 1) Events-based, this strategy would take a lot of support to help the two vendors to make the connections in the community to churches and community groups in order to make effective and well-received HES and IE-HES presentations. The goal would be to sign up people for HES and IE-HES at services or events. Richard mentioned that some congregations have socials or coffees after services. He suggested that it may be a possibility at some congregations that the vendors could host an informational coffee after a ten o'clock Mass, for instance. 2) Canvassing in North Haven with a focus on HES and ductless mini splits or solar. 3) Canvass only for HES. Ben noted that normally the vendors' canvassers are required to canvass for HES *and* the mini-splits or solar but due to scheduling complications with the technicians, vendors will be allowed to canvass only for HES for the next month or two.

Hugh discussed a possible financial incentive for the Project Green students so that they would be incentivized to help the canvassers on weekends. Letty recommended that Ben meet with Anthony and the Project Green kids at the High School. Richard said that Earth Day will be a big day for the HES campaign. Hugh said that there are tables already booked for Earth Day for the vendors and the Task Force. Ben was asked to make sure that the canvassers are not too aggressive with promoting solar or mini-splits. Ben agreed that the canvassers will be properly trained and also reiterated that all homes must have a HES audit before solar. Hugh and Sarah thought that the canvassers should be allowed by the Task Force to mention Solar, but there was some concern among the group that the campaign should concentrate on HES.

North Haven has a high number of good roofs for solar, according to Ben. A decision about the canvass campaign in the next few days is necessary.

Letty noted that we need to approve the HES letter to the community. Richard has been in touch with Sheri, who wanted to remind the Task Force that one letter has gone out already. The new letter will be printed and sent out by the vendors with three targeted recipients - one for homes with oil, one for homes with the possibility for solar, and one for homes with gas targeted just for HES. Hugh recommended that homes already HES audited could be offered the ductless mini splits and solar. The vendors hope to start the canvassing campaign in the next few weeks.

Letters will be signed and should be edited by Wednesday and sent off to UI before they can be sent.

Richard suggested that the Task Force move to approve the motion to approve the plan for HES canvassing with solar and ductless mini splits subject to the revisions of the letters later this week and final approval from UI. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion about the color of the HES lawn signs. Yellow will be used as the background color for the campaign sign. Lawn signs can go on lawns of those who have had HES.

Project Green will get an incentive for signing people up for HES that will come from the Task Force. The vendors will give a donation to SARAH, Inc and some for the Task Force. High suggested that we give an incentive to Project Green of \$250 for the first 10 sign-ups and then an additional \$10 per HES sign up (to a limit of \$500, equalling 60 sign ups and a total \$750). This will be a three month campaign. Project Green will need to fill out a grant application as per the rules about Task Force grants. This motion was unanimously approved.

Note - we are now getting \$25-\$30 per vendor for Clean Energy sign-ups.

2. Power of Change Award - Hugh agreed with Kenny that we needed to put it off until we have actually had a successful campaign. Letty recommended that we keep in mind our successes for further award seasons. Current successes include the completion of 1,414 HES audits in North Haven since 2010. 559 were completed during the 2011 campaign. There are about 9,000 homes in North Haven.

2A. CT Solar Challenge - Hugh and Kenny thought that the Task Force has enough to do at this point with the HES Energy Efficiency Challenge. Letty said that it is a private company - and Hamden is now involved in a solar program. Richard explained that Hamden had chosen two or more solar companies and will bundle costs of solar with specific contractors for 10 weeks. David explained the different tiers of the bundling. And CT Solar Challenge is one company. In the future we may be interested in doing a town-wide solar challenge. Richard wanted to understand the leasing or purchase structures of the various programs. David explained that the cost of the system stays with the house.

3. Task Force Facebook page and town website need to be updated and discussed. Kenny is not able to attend. This will be discussed next month.

4. David Cooper said that there was a suggestion to have an LED sign that was solar powered and could advertise town events and would be across from the town hall or next to the new firehouse. Letty said that his research was appreciated but thought that this is not a Task Force issue. Richard thought that it would be something to bring up to the town and brought up potential safety concerns for drivers. David found a sign that uses letters in a large font with a clear contrast and sees it as way to inform people about town events.

5. Middle School Building Committee. Letty prepared a letter from the Task Force that she will present to the Middle School Building committee about energy efficiency measures to cut operating costs in the future. The meeting will be held on March 17 at 8:15 pm at the Board of Education in the Annex. Richard noted building decisions will all

be cost related, and that the town's goal will be no tax increase for the budget for this year. Hugh said that one of our themes with the town over the years has been that investments in efficiency now have paybacks going forward. Letty included links in the letter to experts in the field. Some additions such as a roof overhang can be cost effective and promote energy efficiency and savings. A roof strong enough to support solar or made out of solar tiles is important. Richard recommended that a vehicle charging station be put in for the site. David will look for Return on Investment figures for energy efficiency measures.

6. Earth Day - Saturday April 5th, 10-2pm at the Middle School. There will be signs, posters, banners, displays and sign-up forms for Clean Energy. Both HES vendors will also be there manning tables and signing up residents for HES and IE-HES audits. Richard will bring some fliers and information. Letty will be there in the morning. A few high school kids will be available to help. Caroline will be there in the afternoon. Hugh will also be there.

7. Shared Clean Energy HB#5412. Approval is sought for any member to write a letter to support it. This is a bill for micro grids for people who cannot get access to solar on an individual basis. Kenny asked for approval. David said that community solar is a great idea. It is usually on a brown field, so that it is land not able to be used for other purposes. Shared solar is an important benefit for low-income or apartment residents not otherwise able to benefit from clean and renewable energy. Micro grids use virtual net metering. Hugh recommended that we encourage our elected officials to support this bill. The public hearing will be very soon, so any letters should be submitted immediately. David noted that another bill, house bill #353, concerns the ability of individuals who would like to set up their own mini utility.

8. Richard said that at last week's town meeting Green Skies was approved for the development of a large solar field in North Haven. There were complicated tax credits previously but they now have approval for the ZRECs. There will be 1044 solar panels on our former town landfill. The solar electricity will connect directly to the sewage treatment plant with any excess electricity to be sold to the grid. Richard asked for a volunteer to take down the HES sign on March 23rd. Hugh will ask Kenny.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Baird