

## Minutes

### Clean Energy Task Force Special Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2014

Easton Community Room 7:00pm

Attendees: Cathy Alfandre, Carroll Brooke, Katie Callahan, Andy Kaechele, Dell Simmons(ASAP), Craig Bogardus(ASAP), Elliot Isban(ASAP)

#### MINUTES

Meeting was called to order by Cathy Alfandre and agenda reviewed.

Discussion with ASAP on Solar project

1. Three members of ASAP(American Solar and Alternative Power) attended the meeting. Cathy reinforced our town support for solar projects and explained that since our last meeting with ASAP, we became aware of roof issues on our proposed site (SSES roof). Our new direction for location of solar panels would be for a ground mount behind school. Cathy asked for ASAP input on new direction.
2. Elliot (ASAP) reviewed ASAP company history and discussed some of their current projects (2 in Danbury, 2 in Deep River). Both these roof mount projects were processed through CEFIA (CT Green Bank). ASAP had little experience with ground mounts since cost of land in CT/NY is so high. Elliot suggested that extensive soil testing would be needed to ensure stability of land. He stated ground mounts are very common in other parts of the country.
3. Elliot discussed ASAP ground mount approach would be to use polypropylene tubs weighted with concrete for ground supports. These are easy to set in place and easy to remove (see Gamechangeracking.com). The system would be 42" at lowest point. With 22.5 degree slant. Fencing not required but recommended. Issues to be further studied: shading, terrain, and distance for power transmission. He confirmed rigid conduits would be used vs PVC. ASAP would guarantee budget upfront. He will send sample of current Yale contract (ASAP outstanding bid). Elliot expected ground mount to run 30-40% more than roof mount.
4. The ASAP recommendation was to use transformerless inverters strung together in 1000 volt system. Panels would have MC4 connectors.
5. Carroll explained our desired relationship with ASAP would be hiring them as design-builders and financing project as PPA (Power Purchase Agreement) through CT Green Bank. ASAP is preapproved vendor of CT Green Bank. Green Bank would have contract with both ASAP and Easton.
6. Financing of project was discussed. Three factors drive cost: Yield/quality of system, cost to build, ZRecs. Andy expressed concern that economics may not be justified in long run. Elliot stated that generation charges should be flat in long run. Transmission/Distribution charges are expected to increase.
7. System Maintenance: ASAP would support 5 year maintenance contract after which a new operating/management agreement would be needed. The current bid would include a maintenance reserve. Jerry to send scope of work for maintenance agreement.
8. Timing: Phase 1: Design completion: 8-10 weeks, Phase 2: Construction 4-5 weeks (late spring). Elliot was asked to estimate cost of phase 1.

9. Next Steps: Cathy would recap our learning to date with interested parties (BOE, BOF, BOS) and ask for feedback.

Other Business

10. Prior meeting minutes were approved by Katie and seconded by Carroll.
11. Janet agreed to train on portfolio manager which tracks power usage in town.
12. Covenant Church is interested in a solar array using C-Pace funding. They have requested to have Easton make C-Pace funding available.
13. Adam has agreed to send out Post- Solarize CT communication to those interested parties that chose to not move forward with solar project. Communication lists other options they might want to consider.
14. Andy updated task force on his investigation into relocating town buses to area behind SSES (same as projected site for solar panels). After reviewing site maps, it was agreed that there is enough land for both projects and that the bus project should not slow or stop the solar opportunity. What would be needed would be to pre-select sections for each project before moving forward.

Carroll motioned to adjourn the meeting. Katie seconded.

Respectfully submitted

Katie Callahan

CETF 10/6/14