



Minutes

Clean Energy Task Force

Regular Meeting, Wednesday, January 20, 2016

Town Hall Conference Room A, 7:30 p.m.

Present: Cathy Alfandre, Heidi Armster, Carroll Brooke, Regina McNamara

Cathy convened the meeting at 7:41

December Minutes briefly discussed. Carroll motioned to approve as submitted; Regina seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

HKMS audit, next steps

A meeting was held last month to share results of the audit with school and town officials. Cathy summarized the meeting for the TF. Most everyone on the list was able to make the meeting, and the results were positively received. Questions were well answered by the auditors.

Cathy followed up with an email to Peggy Sullivan as well as a meeting with Adam Dunsby; the upshot was that the schools' budget has no money currently for energy related projects. However, Carol Labore suggested that there might be a way through the 0% financing program. The numbers: 0% financing on half the cost of \$87,000 (assuming the actual cost projected is accurate), which would be \$43,500, would be a net gain:

- UI incentives cover half the cost of the work (\$43,500)
- The remaining half is financed at 0%; payment on that would be over 3 years at about \$14,500/year
- Savings if the work is done is about \$20,000/year, so the net gain is over \$5000
- The assumption here relies on the accuracy of the projected costs

The costs to do the work suggested by the audit are an estimated amount, where variables might be crucial to gaining support; however the savings are a conservative estimate and backed up by reliable data.

Carol Labore added that total loans to each town are limited to \$100,000/year.

Upcoming Green Spotlights

Discussed information concerning output of the solar array. Carroll has numbers on both projected and actual output, which would make a good article for the Spotlight.

Regina will work on an article, interviewing Carroll with questions about the solar array.

A future Green Spotlight will highlight Home Energy Solutions, with emphasis on the Income-Eligible program.

Portfolio Manager update

Cathy reported on the training session the previous day, with Amy Thompson. Training was good, learned how to get into the system and generate reports. All data is up to date. Since this is personnel intensive, Amy Thompson is trying to find ways to have the data updated automatically in the future.

Cathy reported on the usages in municipal buildings that are reported and shown through the PM data. The good news is that energy use for buildings such as SSES and the library have in fact gone down; however old Staples and Keller have both gone up.

Some of this information might be a good way to encourage the work suggested by the audit be done.

The group discussed starting a conversation with the Board of Finance to help clarify some of the issues we are suggesting.

Solar system interpretive signage

Update next month.

Home Energy Solutions, Income Eligible program

The Home Energy Solutions program is still around and very affordable. There is also a program whereby the audit can be performed for free based on income eligibility. Sheri Borelli said the some Easton residents, particularly senior citizens, should be able to qualify for this program.

Discussed talking to Val Buckley to set up a presentation at the Senior Center by UI.

Regina will reach out to UI to explore this topic for a Spotlight. Cathy suggested Regina include the actual number of people who have done audits.

Another communication from Sherri Borelli concerned the use of Kill-a-Watt devices. UI would like us to consider ways to use and share with residents or the schools for measuring the usage of electricity.

Earth Day (preliminary planning)

E-recycling event was the general consensus of the group for Earth Day. Will re-visit options at the February meeting.

Heidi motioned to adjourn; Regina seconded.

Cathy adjourned the meeting at 9:20.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Armster, Secretary, CETF
Wednesday, February 17, 2016