

Minutes

Clean Energy Task Force

Regular Meeting, Wednesday February 19, 2014

Town Hall Conference Room A, 6:30 p.m.

Present: Cathy Alfandre, Carroll Brooke, Heidi Armster, Katie Callahan

Cathy convened the meeting at 6:45

Minutes were briefly discussed; motion to pass as amended, with corrections (Carroll); second (Heidi); passed unanimously.

Upcoming meeting conflicts:

March meeting is a multiple conflict; Tuesday March 18 was decided upon, also 6:30 (pending finding a location); Heidi will look into a location.

April is also a conflict for members. April 9th was a suggested alternate, again pending a meeting space open for the TF.

Follow-up on Solarize:

Total number of installations across all 3 towns was 65 (possibly 66). Easton had 15 installations; Redding 8; Trumbull had 42.

Inquiries are still coming in to Sunlight, which has agreed to extend their pricing for an additional month beyond the deadline, an offer which continues to provide substantial savings. The state (CEFIA) incentive will now be lower due to the ending of the Solarize program, but the federal tax credit remains in effect and offset some of the lowered CEFIA grant.

Discussed sending a letter to the editor once the final number on total Easton installations are in. This letter would include the number of installations, a thank you to the town, etc.

Update on RECs/next steps on municipal solar:

Application must be completed by April. Carroll put together a power point outlining why SSES would be a good location. Includes all options for solar installations. The idea

being that we present this power point to Adam Dunsby and Peggy Sullivan just to make them aware. There is no commitment even if our application is accepted.

Carroll presented to the TF what he learned while attending a workshop/presentation in Stafford recently.

The program is fairly flexible in that a project can submit a total number of Kilowatts. Essentially the idea is to commit to sell a certain amount of power over a 15-year period, though even that amount can be scaled back if necessary.

He reported to the TF some of the details of this entire process. The group discussed getting advice on both system type and size, approaching the town, whether we need to talk to more vendors now or later. Carroll has reached out to 2 of the 3 vendors he talked to last year, both of whom agreed to work with us on this proposal. One vendor agreed to work with us free of charge, the other wanted to charge for consulting.

Discussed again that this process of submitting RECs for auction does not require a commitment, so a meeting with Adam and Peggy would be a preliminary one. For now, it is best if the TF can explain the RECs process, communicate likely rewards and show other examples in CT.

Cathy will reach out to all with a list of possible meeting dates; Carroll will reach out to the vendors for their availability.

Doing the roof will produce about 30% of SSSES current usage; the parking lot could produce about 50%; the ground mount system in the field behind the school is capable of producing 150%. These are the projections from the vendors we have at present. A meeting will further clarify.

The TF will need to set up meetings: one with a consultant; one with Adam and Peggy; and then get the application done by the April deadline.

Next Steps on municipal energy

Cathy and Carroll met with Peggy Sullivan to propose looking at Helen Keller – to fund an engineering study at this building for a list of possible projects. If a project from this study goes forward then 50% of the cost of the engineering study up to \$10,000 is refunded.

E-recycling

Demand exists in town; are we willing to organize and promote this type of event. Katie has researched the possibilities and found that over the past couple years the State has required firms that do this be certified, which has caused some companies to shut down.

She will continue to look into the possibilities for hosting one this year, possibly for our Earth Day event.

Draft Content for Easton Annual Report:

Cathy read a draft of her submission to the Easton Annual Report and asked the group for any suggestions and/or comments. A few suggestions were made; she will submit promptly.

Earth Day thoughts:

All members of the TF agreed that if we can organize an E-recycling day in Easton, it would be our Earth Day event for 2014.

Heidi motioned we adjourn; Carroll seconded.

Cathy adjourned the meeting at 8:55.

CETF, 3/17/2014

Respectfully submitted,



Heidi Armster, Secretary

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Jen Best
EASTON TOWN CLERK ASST

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