

Minutes

Clean Energy Task Force

Regular Meeting, Wednesday, October 21, 2015

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

Minutes

Minutes were briefly discussed. Carroll noted a change in the solar updates section. He suggested a change on the wording concerning the target start date. "Carroll explained that the target start date is 10/1 but at this point the project is delayed beyond that."

Motion to approve as amended, Regina; seconded, Carroll. All approved.

Solar Project Update

All inverters are in; some electrical still yet to be done, the plan is to have it finished by Friday or before. Building inspector must approve, then UI will inspect. Hopefully within the next week or at most 2. Once approved, the system can be turned on. The target time for this is currently by the end of October.

The fence is in, but the road has yet to be completed. Most of the major components are in place, with some details remaining to be done.

Cathy asked if we wanted to reach out to the Easton Courier now or wait until the ribbon cutting ceremony. Discussed a possible longer article; the group concluded it would be good to write something now and also later, with the ribbon cutting, for more exposure.

*Cathy will check with The Courier to see if we could have coverage twice.

Cathy added that we would like to make an interpretive sign for the solar installation. Noted that we were thinking of applying to ELF to pay for this. Discussed how to find a company that makes signs. Discussed what to put on the signs: how much information and what to explain about the project.

Carroll added that there should be some sort of informational sign for the ribbon cutting, one that explains the energy the school will save, the wattage of the system, etc.

*Heidi and Katie will look into the potential cost of signs as well as potential vendors.

Solar ribbon-cutting event

Carroll has been in touch with Bob Wall and Adam Dunsby to discuss the ceremony. Bob Wall needs to have a date to plan for attending; Adam added some invitees to the list.

Shooting for mid-November.

HKMS audit/next steps

Carroll reported that the things we requested (i.e. windows, furnace) are being looked at. Carol Labore has informed the group that we need to provide better data so she can generate incentives for projects we might do as a result of the audit. Carroll has reached out to the vendor to request the updated data information.

Once everything is in place the vendor will come and present their findings and recommendations.

Green spotlight

Heidi reported on the Barlow's article, which should be in the paper soon; Regina wrote one on recycling, for which she interviewed the residential waste company. She noted that even though recycling has always had high participation in Easton, it's even higher now with the ease of single stream.

Portfolio manager update

No template is ready yet; all CT towns need to submit their preferences before a template can be distributed to all the towns.

The group decided to request information about what other towns are using before we set preferences.

Cathy reported that Amy Thompson noted from the data that SSES appears to be eligible for an Energy Star rating; discussed passing this information along to school and central office administrators to see if they have any interest in pursuing.

There were pros and cons to the idea of giving this idea attention: pros included showing that the town has achieved something with the investments that have been made. And perhaps this would lead to more projects.

Carroll voiced concern against the idea of pursuing an Energy Star rating because it would involve some cost and time resources, and he feels there is a better use for funds in terms of efficiency improvements that save money and energy.

Discussed whether it was worthwhile to bring this to Peggy Sullivan's attention.

*Cathy will reach out to Amy to ask about potential benefits of an Energy Star rating.

Clean Energy Communities Program

Awards Ceremony: Cathy reported that she and Carroll attended the awards ceremony last week. The event was nicely done and Easton has reached silver status.

BIG grant status: We have earned 2 big grants so far; and have now accumulated 62 out of 100 points required to get the next grant.

Survey: Will be forthcoming about the program; Cathy agreed to participate.

Heidi motioned we adjourn; Carroll seconded.

Cathy adjourned the meeting at 9:10.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Armster, Secretary
CETF
11/13/2015