

Minutes

Easton Energy & Environment Task Force

Regular meeting, Wednesday, October 21, 2020

Remote meeting via Zoom, 7:30 p.m.

Present: Cathy Alfandre, Heidi Armster, Lise Fleurette, Bobby Morganti, Deidre Williams

Absent: Katie Callahan

Also attending: Joan Winter, Dana Ceva, Ed Nagy

Cathy convened the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

E-recycling:

Discussed details for the event:

- Schedule for members' participation
- Curbside pickups from local residents, assigned to members (Friday and Saturday)
- Marketing and social media posting, last minute reminders
- At the event: collecting names for the TF email list; Abbie to table with power strips; photograph the event

Solar Data:

Quick facts: Phase I performance for September was at 117% of anticipated production, and was producing at 119% in October (as of our meeting date)

- Data input from prior years almost finished; less work going forward, minimal data will be needed to keep up to date
- Bobby reported the spreadsheet represents a full energy profile; some formulas still need tweaking to produce accurate performance numbers
- Goal is to create a straightforward update showing energy use and cost savings over time
- Significance of compiling the data is the ability to produce hard numbers for the Town, Board of Ed, Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance, and understand the benefits of the solar array

Composting:

Composting subcommittee: Cathy, Joan, Dana

- Cathy reached out to Sue Kaplan, who was very enthusiastic about the idea; will meet with Kaplan later in the week together with partners from Chartwells and Board of Education
- Abbie reached out to JBHS
- Joan reached out to ELF, also very excited to support the initiative

- Joan called Curbside Compost and another competitor for pricing proposals
- Lise discussed briefly with the Fairfield Sustainability Group, received with enthusiasm

Other updates:

Cathy opened a brief discussion about a possible Virtual Net Metering project; we have been approached by Skyview Ventures to have a town building be the beneficiary account for a project in West Haven

- Virtual Net Metering is designed to encourage investment in renewable energy
- In CT, only a municipality, state entity or agricultural customer of the power company are eligible (both UI and Eversource customers)
- The program allows a renewable system's owner/lessee (referred to as the host) to share excess energy produced by its system (solar or wind) in the form of credits; the credits are used to offset the electric bills of designated beneficiaries
- The municipality or farm designates the "beneficial accounts" that will receive the credits
- Credits are applied "virtually" to the beneficiary accounts only after the host's energy needs have been fulfilled by the renewable system
- Cathy working on setting up a meeting between Skyview Ventures and Christine Calvert

Minutes briefly discussed. Motion to approve: Heidi; second: Bobby.
Passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn: Deidre; second: Bobby.

Cathy adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Armster, Secretary EEETF
November 16, 2020