

## Minutes

### Easton Energy & Environment Task Force

Regular meeting, Wednesday, September 18, 2019

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

Attending: Cathy Alfandre, Heidi Armster, Katie Callahan, Zach Morgan (JBHS student liaison)

Guests: Dana Ceva, Abbie Winter

Cathy called the meeting to order at: 7:35

#### **Minutes (July):**

Motion to approve, Katie; Heidi seconded. All approved.

#### **Solar project update:**

Cathy reported construction is now complete; currently waiting on the utility company to come and "witness test" that all is working as expected. Should be up and running by late September.

Data: Cathy and Bobby had laid out some thoughts on data collection between meetings:

- Summarized next steps with Board of Ed representative for gathering and reporting on performance data (savings, tracking, presenting).
- Should have a report ready for October meeting.

Event: Discussed timing on an event to celebrate the new solar array; will ask Kim Fox-Santora for a good time/month to host at SSES.

Further discussion: Abbie inquired about the grass surrounding the panels; Katie suggested it would be nice to incorporate plantings for the Pollinator Pathways Program.

Cathy reminded all that the TF still needs a grant to pay for installation of a permanent sign to provide education on the array. Katie added that we did not earn a Grassroots Fund grant, but a representative from the organization is meeting with people locally in October.

#### **Recycling update:**

Katie reported continuing efforts to reach out to Jody Drescher (recycling facility contact for Easton).

Katie spoke with Take 2 about supporting e-recycling just for senior citizens; looking into having a trailer brought to town; TF would coordinate with the senior center and local volunteers to pick up items to be recycled; discussed possible volunteers (Barlow students, teachers and/or school groups, sports teams, Scouts, etc).

Abbie mentioned Terra Cycle, an organization for upcycling/recycling that the TF can look into.

Zach mentioned that Barlow doesn't currently recycle; the group discussed if this was a bigger issue in CT schools.

**EV charging station update:**

Discussion: Repairing the EV station vs finding a partner to replace it. Initial conversations suggest that a partner would charge the town and/or demand a larger presence in town with more stations installed.

Abbie mentioned a contact at Green Lots (part of the Shell group) who might be able to help.

**Quick (general) updates:**

Greatest energy usage: SSES; 2nd greatest usage is from Keller.

Cathy summarized Keller's audit history, including improvements made to date. Jeff Parker (president of Easton BoE) is willing to re-open the discussion on energy efficiency; Cathy reported that UI has reached out with info on new incentives that we may be able to tap into for efficiency projects at Keller.

TF membership: Lise Flurette, waiting on approval; Deidre Williams is interested in joining.

Pollinator Pathways: Zach produced a logo for the TF to use to represent us at events and with partners such as Pollinator Pathways.

**Community awareness items:**

Discussed upcoming events to post on instagram:

1. Climate strike event on Friday, including locally in Westport.
2. JBHS beach cleanup: Saturday 9-11:30 at Jennings Beach, please join and help out Barlow students if you can.
3. Recycling Event: CT Recyclers Coalition, in Stony Creek on Friday. Abbie will forward the info.

9/28 Clean Energy Communities semi-annual meeting is on Saturday, Sept 28th in North Haven (at the UI energy solutions center building)

Misc: Katie reported that VW will pay the State of CT \$55 million as part of the diesel settlement/reparations; these are funds are open to state projects. Katie will forward the link to the team for brainstorming ideas on a proposal; info on the DEEP website

Other things to think about for discussion/possible action:

Food waste: Abbie mentioned Second Harvest; Cathy mentioned Zume - a tech company that can track and predict food usage to reduce waste; particularly saves on costs for large scale restaurants.

Meeting visitors were asked about their main environmental concerns and goals.

Zach says he's interested in composting and reducing food waste.

Dana mentioned composting as well, and added she would like to see a town-wide composting event (possible idea for the TF). She would like to see a refocusing of general attitudes toward how we live, especially with regards to reducing consumption and packaging.

Abbie added that composting is a more recent focus for her, with electric vehicles having been her main focus for a while. Would like to see a composting event locally, perhaps in collaboration with the Easton Garden Club.

Motion to adjourn: Katie; second: Heidi.

Cathy adjourned the meeting at 9:12

Respectfully submitted,  
Tuesday, October 15, 2019  
Heidi Armster, Secretary