

## Minutes

### Easton Energy & Environment Task Force

Regular meeting, August 18, 2021

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

Present: Cathy Alfandre, Heidi Armster, Katie Callahan, Lise Fleurette, Robert Morganti

Also attending: Ed Nagy

Cathy convened the meeting at 7:35

#### **June minutes:**

Cathy asked the group if there was any comment. Seeing none, Katie motioned to approve; Bobby seconded. All approved the minutes from June.

#### **Solar update**

- Data: For both months of June and July, the solar system underperformed; both the CT Green Bank and Skyview Ventures stated this was the same with their solar installs across the state, and not unique to our system, indicating weather as a likely cause (June: 86% for phase I, 96% for phase II; July: 67% for phase I, 72% for phase II)
- 8/20 meeting: Cathy and Bobby are meeting Friday via Zoom with First Selectman Dave Bindelglass, and BoE member Jeff Parker, to discuss the solar data spreadsheet; Cathy says they hope to allay any concerns about the system and explain how the data clearly shows cost savings; Lise suggested sharing data to explain what the cost *would be* without solar vs. the current cost; brief discussion about preparing for the meeting and questions to consider
- Solar MAP program: No Easton buildings will be able to participate; and while Barlow was under possible consideration, more detailed information about the school building is needed before a decision can be made
- Discussion/solar residential packet: Discussed creating a place on our page on the town website where residents can go for information about solar. The TF could provide some basic information about how to get the process going, including some links to helpful sites. The TF could also manage a list of current solar customers who would be willing to share their insights and experience of having solar on their homes. We could then connect current solar customers with interested residents in town.

#### **Municipal EV readiness program:**

Easton is participating so that the town can take advantage of any infrastructure grant funding if/when it becomes available.

Cathy, Katie and Lise (as well as Justin Giorlando) participated in the first “clarity session” last month. Next step is to start gathering information about the municipal fleet. Ed indicated that he already has some information compiled about our town vehicles, such as year acquired, age of vehicles, types of use, etc. He will share that spreadsheet.

First Selectman Bindelglass asked the TF to research what it would take to convert the charging station to one with a ‘pay to charge’ credit card swipe. Katie looked into this, shared some information on cost. After some discussion about costs to the town, trying to understand how often the chargers are used, and how much the town pays for the service, the group realized that the fees to have a card swipe might cost the town more money if the station wasn’t used enough to offset those fees.

Bobby asked if it would be possible to place a timer on the charging station to keep people from keeping their vehicles on the charger too long. Katie will ask about the timer possibility.

One charger is currently broken, according to Ed. Katie will inquire about the cost to assess the problem.

**Recycling:**

- 10/23 at SSES is confirmed for the electronics event, including the drug take back with the Police, as well as EMS bottle collection. The TF discussed the “curbside pickup” option; will explore getting help from a sports team or Boy Scouts.
- Recycling grant application: Cathy submitted the application at the end of June; should find out if we get the grant in September.

Lise motioned to adjourn; Heidi seconded.

Cathy adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heidi Armster, Secretary, EEETF  
8/26/21