

Minutes

Easton Energy & Environment Task Force

Regular meeting, Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Town Hall, conference room A, 7:30 p.m.

Present: Cathy Alfandre, Heidi Armster, Jeff Borofsky, Katie Callahan, Lise Fleurette

Absent: Bobby Morganti

Guest: Micah Brill was unable to attend, last minute; will reschedule

Also attending: Emily Marshall, Joan Winter

Cathy convened the meeting at 7:40

Minutes from September meeting:

Cathy asked if anyone had questions or comments about the minutes from last month; seeing none, Heidi made a motion to adopt the minutes as written; Lise seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

New alternate member

- The TF welcomed Jeff to the group as a new, alternate member with EEETF
- Cathy asked Jeff to share his interests with the group

Solar data

- Phase I: 116% of expectation; Phase II: 100%
- Discussed briefly the haze over the summer from western fires, again wondering if and how that might have impacted the array's ability to absorb solar power, based on lower than expected numbers earlier in summer
- Cathy shared that the position at Central Office that reports monthly numbers for our data has been filled; additionally, the position of Director of Finance and Operations has been filled

Residential solar information

Emily put together a detailed list of 5 websites with important information for anyone seeking to add solar to their home. She explained briefly what each site offers; information ranges from a list of steps to follow for researching solar, to information about actual quotes for nearby residences, types of financing available, and how to obtain town permits. Cathy will submit Emily's compilation to the Town Clerk's office for publishing on the town website.

Still need to find residents with solar, especially those recently installed (within the past 3-5 years); discussed if helpful to find older installations; the group will continue to reach out to friends/neighbors to find local solar customers willing to share their experiences

Recycling/3-in-1 event

- *Schedule:* Katie reviewed the schedule for all; 3 volunteers from our group will be there 10-12 and 3 from 12 until close at 2
- *Pickups:* We have had 15 requests for pickups; Katie has already picked up from 11 seniors' homes; Cathy reviewed further requests, and locations were split up for task for members to do before or on Saturday morning
- *Final marketing:* reminders on social media; Katie provided info for the DPW sandwich boards; a list of accepted items is on the town website

- *Activities during the event:* TF members will collect new subscribers for our email distribution list, and hand out a recycling information flier detailing what can and cannot be placed inside the recycle bins, and what can be brought to other locations, such as the transfer station and DPW.

The TF also briefly discussed creating a comprehensive list of items that can or should be disposed properly and/or recycled, including locations and times/dates for drop off; would include items that are either prohibited from tossing into the regular garbage, or would be better kept out of the waste stream and recycled; some items suggested were: paints, batteries, light bulbs, Christmas trees, electronics, food waste, tires, mattresses. TF will create and publish this list on the town website as well.

Grant application update

- The RecycleCT Board has awarded our Task Force with a Lee Sawyer Community Waste Reduction & Recycling grant in the amount of \$3190.10. The project submitted to RecycleCT must be completed by the end of November 2022, followed by a full report due at the end of December 2022
- Our project: to provide a weather-proof, stick-on label to all residents' bins on what can/cannot be recycled
- The TF will create a team to work on this project, mainly starting in January of 2022 (Heidi, Jeff, Joan, Emily expressed interest)
- Next steps include: starting the conversation with partners such as Ed Nagy and creating a project plan with steps and timeline

EV

- *Readiness team:* now have list of municipal vehicles with the following information: mileage, year, type of fuel, current condition (working or not), department that uses the vehicle; Lise reported on webinar on EV police vehicles; roughly 60% of the "run time" for police vehicles is idling, and EVs could save both money and emissions based on this number alone; maintenance costs also much lower.
- *Next steps:* talk to the police department about EV; obtain replacement schedule for vehicles; explore connecting Easton PD with Westport PD (which has multiple electric police vehicles)
- *Mowers:* Katie had an initial discussion with Park and Rec about obtaining state DERA grant for electric mowing equipment; obtained information from West Hartford about their successful grant application for such equipment; may explore connecting Easton P&R with West Hartford
- *Charging station repair:* Katie reported that we got a quote; got approval from town to proceed with repair; Katie reported it shouldn't take too long

Other

Lise added that Justin Giorlando forwarded an email about a grant for composting from DEEP and she will forward that email to the team.

Heidi motioned to adjourn the meeting; Katie seconded the motion.

Cathy adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Armster, Secretary, EEETF
10/22/21