

Minutes

Easton Energy & Environment Task Force

Regular meeting, Wednesday, January 18, 2023

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

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

Also attending: Diane Geisert

Cathy convened the meeting at 7:35

Minutes:

Brief discussion; Lise motioned to approve the minutes of December; Katie seconded. All in favor.

Solar Data update: (2)

1. Phase I was 152% of expectation; Phase II was 90% of expectation; some discussion about why the numbers were so far apart; need to look into the specifics to figure out what is happening
2. Update on missing data from one month in 2016: Cathy initially contacted UI for missing bill, but UI could not locate it; Cathy then reached out to ER9 contact, who found the bill immediately (though it appeared to be different from all other bills); we will now be able to update the spreadsheet completely; total amount of to-date savings will be available at next month's meeting

EV update: (2)

1. Currently, a charger in one of the ports is out; Katie contacted Control Mod; possible the town can fix the issue by re-setting the port
2. Lise and Cathy submitted grant proposals to DEEP, as well as for UI incentives; town is pre-approved for the UI incentives (20K); total cost from the contractor is 33K; Cathy reached out to DEEP again, and learned they are still processing the applications; if we do get approval, we will open discussions with relevant town parties on location and implementation
3. Briefly discussed that both grant and incentives needed to cover all costs; new stations would have charge swipes so people would have to pay for electricity
4. Cathy asked the group about a possible return to the question of EVs for the police department, and if so how to go about that; brief discussion about who to reach out to, if we should pursue more discussion for this year; the group discussed the pros:

- 4.1. cost savings/cost avoidance is real, while availability of grants might be greater this year; Katie informed the group that payback was about 5 years for one of these vehicles; Lise added there is real data to support cost savings (learned from the workshop she had attended)
- 4.2. Katie added that Westport does their own maintenance in house, and that they maintain our town's gas vehicles as well

Plans for 2023

Cathy requested that the Task Force begin thinking about priorities (other than the EV charging station) for 2023; various suggestions were made. Cathy thanked the group for all the ideas and will compile the list for further review in February.

Earth Day

The TF discussed and decided to do another EV car show for Earth Day.

Other

1. Cathy mentioned that next month we will have a PACE representative attend our meeting to discuss a possible collaboration
2. The Task Force will need to submit our annual report for the town, covering July 2021 through June 30, 2022
3. February 1st: webinar on K-12 climate action and educational ideas for reducing climate impact; Cathy sent the link over to the new Director of Finance and Operations
4. Diane's update:
 - 4.1. HKMS: Dr. Klapp is moving ahead with the collaboration between Food Rescue and Keller; before the holiday break, they added a small fridge in the cafeteria for donated food and cleaned out items; a teacher has made additional deliveries to Fridgeport
 - 4.2. SSES: a teacher there is still interested in a collaboration with Food Rescue
 - 4.3. Diane informed Dr. Klapp that if the school has an interest in composting, our Task Force would be interested in collaborating.

Jeff motioned to adjourn the meeting; Heidi seconded the motion. All in favor.

Cathy adjourned the meeting at 9:12

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Armster, Secretary, EEETF
2/13/2023