

Minutes

Easton Energy & Environment Task Force

Regular meeting, Wednesday, November 15, 2023

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

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

Also attending: Joan Winter

Cathy called the meeting to order at 7:40

Minutes from October:

Brief discussion; motion to approve the minutes: Katie. Second: Lise.
Motion passed unanimously.

Solar update:

Phase I 102%; Phase II 143%. Current month on track for similar number.
Spreadsheet update: December.

EV update/next steps:

Cathy, Lise and Katie will split up tasks for EV project:

- Circle back to the First Selectman and Ed Nagy before the holidays for a recap update on details
- Will clarify the amount of monthly expenses necessary to keep the charge station open and available to public (stations will be pay to charge for the public; ongoing costs are the town's responsibility)
- Clarify that the town will need to set aside money in the budget for the project; full reimbursement from UI and DEEP only after costs are submitted.
- Brief discussion about the dedicated police charger; will need to reach out to Chief Doyle to settle the location before the TF can get an accurate quote to install.

Virtual net metering:

Bobby will update at December's meeting.

Recycling info/update:

Thanks to Joan, we now have a final, meticulously edited spreadsheet with information about recycling many different and hard to recycle items. Cathy will submit the list to the town clerk and update the Task Force page.

Events recap: Coffee and Climate Conversation/Heat pump webinar:

Fairly well-attended event on the climate discussion coffee event (about 25 attendees or so); it was all q+a, with no formal presentation; many good questions

Heat pumps: not as well attended but had a very good and easy to understand presentation by Matt; about 7 people joined (in addition to Cathy, Lise and Matt, the presenter).

Eagle Scout project conversation:

Cathy was contacted by one of the mothers of the boys who worked with us on the recycling cart stickers. Her younger son is now looking for a project. TF discussed a few ideas:

- clean up the streets for/on Earth Day, maybe also sorting the refuse between trash and recycling;
- signage for the solar array behind SSES
- labeling trees in open spaces by name (common/scientific)
- helping with food rescue at the schools
- pollinator pathway support
- build an observatory for night sky viewing

Other:

PACE reached out to Cathy to find out if we can help bring their solar ideas to our legislators.

Brief discussion:

- Will look at the information booklets; inquire about priority items
- Discuss with our legislators and possibly invite both Hughes and Scott to our January meeting

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn Heidi; Second: Jeff.

Cathy adjourned the meeting at 8:46

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Armster

11/17/23