

## Minutes

### Easton Energy & Environment Task Force

Special Meeting, Wednesday, February 27, 2019

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

Present: Cathy Alfandre, Heidi Armster, Katie Callahan, Bobby Morganti, Emily Winter  
Guests: Joan Winter, Zachary Shortt (JBHS student), Doug Williams, Deirdre Williams

Cathy convened the meeting at: 7:34

Cathy invited the guests to share their respective interests in issues of energy and the environment.

#### **Minutes:**

Minutes briefly discussed. Katie motioned to approved; Emily seconded. All approved.

#### **Solar project update (Cathy):**

Briefly summarized the history of Easton's solar panels (for our guests)

Report on current delays: construction stalled briefly, waiting on some custom equipment to arrive; concrete should be in before summer break; expect to be operational by June

#### **Solar data monitoring and reporting (Cathy):**

Underperformance issue identified:

- A mismatch in the system technology has shown to be the cause
- Wasn't caught earlier because the nature of the problem becomes apparent only over time
- CT Green Bank is working with the contractor to solve the issue

#### **January recycling event update (Live Green recycling event attended by TF guests Deirdre and Joan, summarized for the TF):**

Recycling event spearheaded by Live Green with over 100 attendees (mostly town administrators and residents) at a recent meeting:

- Cheryl Baldwin from CT DEEP discussed the "recycling/what's in what's out" program
- Some collaboration between transfer stations and towns to create innovative programs
- Reported on a presentation about the use of recycled glass mixed with concrete, used for homes construction
- Learned at the event: at least 20% of recycling is contaminated, often more; this is central to the problems with recycling in CT

- Deirdre explained that towns need more information about the process; unclear if individual municipalities are informed properly; recycling efforts may not be as effective as residents believe
- Joan reported on a pilot project that will provide a tool kit to offer solutions: from educating the public to contacting haulers and informing the town administrations
- Joan reported RecycleCT.com is a good place to start for information

#### **Sustainable CT program (Emily):**

Emily contacted Roxbury (an example of a small town, pop about 2000) to ask about their involvement in the program

- Met every 2 weeks last year to get paperwork in by the deadline (June)
- Roxbury felt it was a worthwhile investment
- TF discussed that this would not be doable for 2019 but Emily recommended we prepare now for a June 2020 deadline
- Use of interns/fellows could be helpful, though available during summer months only
- Benefits to the town: publicity as a sustainable community; possible grants
- Doug mentioned a program called Tree City USA: he shared that it's good for both community and town; residents would need to be involved as a community together

Discussion about whether to sign up for the program; discussed time commitment involved; agreed to review between meetings and re-visit in March

#### **Upcoming events and projects:**

April 27: E-recycling event to-dos/suggestions:

- Katie reached out to the EMS to ask about participating
- Check with police department for medication collection
- Reach out to big stores to provide bins to collect light bulbs
- Partner with the Library for a paper shredding event

Other project suggestions:

- Community composting program
- Explore Helen Keller for possible solar

#### **April meeting date:**

Discussed possible alternative dates due to possible scheduling conflicts

Heidi motioned to adjourn; Katie seconded.

Cathy adjourned the meeting at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heidi Armster, Secretary, EEETF  
3/18/19