

Minutes

Easton Energy Task Force

Regular Meeting, Wednesday, August 17, 2016

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

**Present:** Cathy Alfandre, Heidi Armster, Carroll, Brooke, Katie Callahan, Regina McNamara

Attending as a guest: Grace Smith, JBHS student

Cathy called the meeting to order at 7:40.

Cathy asked Grace to talk about why she is interested in the TF. Grace explained she is interested in the subject of global warming, and wanted to attend the TF meeting to see if she could offer help as part of an independent school project. She indicated she would be interested in writing Green Spotlight articles as part of her contribution.

Cathy gave Grace a brief history of the TF, including both our initial role for the Town of Easton in clean energy as well as our current dual responsibilities of continuing to increase clean energy participation and also inform on ways to reduce municipal energy consumption.

**Minutes**

Minutes were briefly discussed. Motion to approve from Carroll. Seconded, Katie. Approved unanimously.

**Update to Board of Selectmen**

At the July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the BoS, there was a request to give the Selectmen an update on TF progress to date. A presentation to the Board would be best once PM was updated to current available data. As of the date of this meeting (8/17), data entry had been completed; TF discussed time/details of presenting

- Request for availability to present in both September and October. The group will discuss next month and find a date in October.

- Cathy requested input from the group in outline form to build a presentation.
- Regina suggested presenting already recommended energy saving projects, per the energy audit.
- Carroll added looking for a budget, especially concerning audits.
- Katie suggested identifying and highlighting a list of energy savings projects successfully completed to date.
- Regina suggested a power point with charts showing specific and concrete progress in energy savings.

Summary of discussion on budget suggestion: All projects thus far have been accomplished with grants; however, grant money will not be enough to engage in more meaningful projects like building audits.

Cathy informed the group that Easton has earned another \$5000 energy-related grant from UI. These grants are based on points accumulated by the town for promoting the reduction of energy use as well as attaining those goals.

### **Solar and Portfolio Manager data review**

- Carroll informed the TF that the bond funds provided at the start of the solar project have now been returned to the Town.
- Solar continues to produce on pace. However, Carroll did identify a high peak day, June 3, that might have been an issue with the AC, or it might have been a software glitch due to a lightning strike a couple days earlier.
- The significance of a peak is that UI bases the entire cost of a month's bill on the cost at that high peak within the given month.
- Discussed if Honeywell would do better to manage the system, or at the least if someone should be hired to do so.
- Carroll talked about the concept of "peak shaving": an effort to "shave" energy costs through analysis of peak demand periods, as

peak times are expensive. Once peaks are identified, they can be managed to reduce costs. Examples of peak shaving include, among other things, not starting up all HVAC systems at the same time. It's necessary to look at the data to understand when and why the peaks are happening.

- The TF looked at the most recent data from Portfolio Manager.

### **Green Spotlight planning**

- Discussion about energy star certification that SSES has just been awarded: Potential Green Spotlight article, especially if there is a ceremony. Suggested 3 contacts to talk to: one member of the Board of Education; Amy, the Energy Star contact; Michael Brownstein, Assistant Principal of SSES.
- Cathy suggested that Grace could try her hand at writing the article on SSES and the Energy Star award.
- The TF also suggested Grace look into 2 other Spotlight ideas: the greening of Christmas and subjects relevant to Barlow students who may be looking to study in the field of energy.
- Grace will discuss with Barlow's resources in the counseling department (and student body) to inquire about any graduates who may have gone on to study energy issues in college.

### **Next Steps**

- Discussion about what direction the TF will take to identify projects, and if there is something to be done about Keller that is shorter term and has a faster payback (due to the issues of student enrollment numbers and decisions on HKMS building use)
- Re-visited discussion on presentation materials for the Selectmen: Suggestion to use the chart from Amy Thompson in simplified form (reducing the scale of information) to provide key information on success of energy projects

- Suggestion to looking at ideas/projects in other towns; gather information from nearby towns of Westport, Trumbull, Fairfield, Bridgeport, Norwalk and Redding.
  1. Next meeting the TF will discuss details of BoS presentation; Cathy will prepare draft and seek input from Carroll; aim for October 6 meeting of the BoS.
  2. Green Spotlight on SSES and the Energy Star award (Grace, Katie, Cathy)
  3. Reach out to Amy on getting data report for Helen Keller and the accuracy of its rating (Cathy)
  4. Bring June monthly data on SSES so the group can discuss analysis (Carroll)
  5. Look at the CT Energy website for information on other towns (Regina, Katie will look at Weston)

Motion to adjourn: Regina, Heidi seconded.

Cathy adjourned the meeting at 8:55.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heidi Armster, Secretary, EETF  
September