

Minutes

Easton Energy Task Force

Regular Meeting, Wednesday September 20, 2017

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

Present: Cathy Alfandre, Heidi Armster, Katie Callahan, Regina McNamara, Grace Smith

Cathy convened the meeting at 7:35.

Minutes August:

Reviewed minutes; Regina motioned to approve. Katie seconded. All approved.

Solar Phase II update and next steps:

P&Z met and reviewed the Phase II project within the context of a broader plan for the Staples property and the town. Cathy and John Dunster both attended the meeting.

P&Z felt it was an appropriate use of the property, and have suggested that Gary Simone and Park and Rec review the plans. P&Z will discuss with Simone.

Next step: Submit a permit application to Conservation/Inland Wetlands for the array because there are wetlands within 100' of the proposed construction. Should be a very straight forward application: the area is very flat (no run-off to speak of) and at a minimum of 70' away. Adam and John will both attend the Inland Wetlands meeting.

Cathy says we are on track for a spring construction project.

Report on energy task force gathering:

Cathy and Katie attended the meeting and provided their take away to the group.

Issues/questions brought up at the gathering: Power source, mini grids and battery back-up are all hot topics in discussions about how to prepare for storm-related power outages. Cathy will follow up with John Dunster to see if there is any way to divert the energy to a battery backup for the town in the case of a power outage.

Many ideas were brought up at the gathering, some presentations were informative. People shared what they had done or were looking to do. Ideas ranged from discussion on phantom power to COGs (Council of Government), and ways to improve communication with the public on these issues.

A potentially important take-away was discussion about ways to resource funds. The New England Grassroots Fund was mentioned: They are able to provide mini-grants for community related, non-profit groups that need resources to start or continue environmentally based projects.

Green Spotlight:

Grace finished the September article; discussed what she might do for October.

The group suggested she work on the concept of phantom loads and try to tie that into Halloween in some creative way.

For November she is interested in recognizing World Vegan Day. She would interview friends for the article. Discussed how this could tie into energy reduction/savings. Suggested discussed how methane produced on animal farms is a major cause of climate warming.

Possible topic for December: 5 green ideas for the holidays.

Other projects:

No updates to share.

Motion to adjourn: Regina. Second: Katie.

Cathy adjourned the meeting at 8:30

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Armster, Secretary, EETF
10/18/2017