

Minutes

Regular meeting, Easton Energy & Environment Task Force

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

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

Present: Cathy Alfandre, Heidi Armster, Katie Callahan, Lise Fleurette

Absent: Bobby Morganti, Deidre Williams

Also present: Abbie Winter, Joan Winter, Ed Nagy

Cathy convened the meeting at 7:35

Minutes from May: Motion to approve: Lise; second: Heidi. Minutes unanimously approved.

Updates

- a. Solar performance and repairs (Cathy)
Phase 2 has been over-performing, Phase 1 not, most likely due to inverter issues.
CT Green Bank reported that the inverter work has been completed; but the system is not yet live; waiting on UI to turn it back on
- b. Solar data spreadsheet (Bobby)
Discovered an issue that appears to be related to having little demand for electricity (due to COVID); Bobby and Cathy still have work to do to figure out how to fix the spreadsheet to reflect costs and savings.
- c. HKMS proposal (Cathy)
Cathy reached out to Scott Reiss last week to find out if there are any updates from the vendor; she heard back that the current proposal might be too much for the budget; discussed if it can be done and Cathy said they would look over it again
- d. Electric School Bus Toolkit program (Abbie/Katie)
Abbie contacted the Director of Transportation for Bridgeport Schools who will further reach out to his supervisor; Abbie is writing a letter of support to create a way for community groups active in the city of Bridgeport to lend their support with a simple act of signing onto the letter.
- e. SFC composting presentation (Abbie)
Abbie will get the powerpoint from the composting discussion on Westport's new program, recently begun on July 6; reported that the presentation was very good; doesn't require a lot of area - 10x10; the program offered a tote for dropping off items; location is right off exit 18; volunteers currently run the site until it takes hold; the group discussed some of the pros and cons of town-wide composting:

in Easton there is space to compost, but there are also complaints from neighbors who don't compost and live next door to those that do.

- f. Aquarion Award nomination (Cathy)
Submitted the application
- g. Sustainable CT (Lise)
Lise has been meeting with the group of several others from town for about a month; there is a rough timeline for the approval process and roughly 45 actions to be taken; currently focused on fulfilling actions related to C-Pace; something for farms and possibly churches.
- h. JBHS Social Justice Group (Abbie):
 - i. Reported this is a new group at Barlow that already has garnered great interest from students, and support from administration and the BoE
 - ii. Mission statement includes diversity, equity and inclusion of all races, nationalities, gender identity; a petition for the group has collected over 700 signatures
 - iii. They have met with BoE, have an approved a budget for creating a safe space and a guide for educators
 - iv. Looking for leadership within the community; Abbie suggested there might be a way for the TF to lend support to this group

Grassroots Grow Grant

Katie: the town received a \$1250.00 grant, which is 50% of requested amount; to be used towards purchase of surge protectors that will be distributed to the community; grant requires an underserved community be the benefactor of any initiative, in this case senior citizens.

Cathy asked Katie to send the written grant around to the group for all to read.

Followup from discussion with Joe Sardone

Katie reached out the day after our discussion to follow up with more questions; has not received a response

General recycling information:

- Take 2 is still doing recycling events, open to setting a date
- Katie added that hosting this fall event now would likely be very well-timed, with more people home and cleaning out closets and basements
- Informed the group that the Easton Police will not do a Drug Take-Back event until further notice

Next article for Courier

Cathy volunteered to put together an article with key summary points from the recycling discussion.

Ed suggested using YouTube to virtually "visit" similar processing plants for more information. He mentioned a plant called Urban Mining, opening in August: a glass to concrete recycling

plant. Someone asked when the next Hazardous Waste Disposal date would be; Ed reported October 24, 2020.

Motion to adjourn: Katie; second: Lise.

Cathy adjourned the meeting at 8:50.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Armster, Secretary EEETF
Monday, August 17, 2020