

Town of East Hampton
Clean Energy Task Force
Regular Meeting

March 7, 2017 – 6:00 P.M.

East Hampton Town Hall Conference Room

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Chairman Pat Petrone, Martin Podskoch, Jack Solomon (arrived 6:45 P.M.), Pamela Rinaldi, Brian Gay, Kurt Reichenbach and Glen LeConche (Town of East Hampton Building Official)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Chairman Petrone.

Approval of Minutes: February 7, 2017 Regular Meeting:

A motion was made by Mr. Podskoch to approve the February 7, 2017 regular meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Reichenbach. Voted 5-0.

Public Remarks: None

Diana McCarthy from the Clean Energy Community Program at Eversource:

Diana McCarthy presented to the Task Force regarding the municipal assistance program at Eversource, and the various ways in which East Hampton can participate. In 2013, all the municipal buildings in E. Hampton were benchmarked and one was audited; typically the building that is least efficient is audited. The audit would have identified energy saving objectives and put them into a municipal action plan. This information will be available to the task force once contacts at Eversource help Chairman Petrone gain access to the portfolio manager account. Ms. McCarthy spoke of incentives available for moving forward with identified energy saving projects. The goal is to drop the energy load by 20% by 2018.

The task force asked Ms. McCarthy about expectations for a new building. She discussed the help in planning that is available through their engineering team. Tim Smith from World Energy Efficiency Services in Cromwell, CT was also present. His company works with Eversource and UI as a third party. He discussed the audit process, possible financing and incentives in trying to develop energy-saving projects with no impact to town capital funds.

Ms. McCarthy spoke about the renewable energy credits that the town earns quarterly for environmentally friendly kW hours. The points earned can be generated into a clean energy community program. In the past, the points were redeemed for light bulb exchanges. The town currently has 51 points; 100 are needed to reach the next bright idea grant level. Points can be earned by hosting an outreach campaign, or with town projects.

She also mentioned the virtual net meter program in which one building creating excess energy can share that with other buildings (under one municipal account). Community shared solar was also discussed, especially as it could related to condos or housing developments in town (Lake Vista was identified as having high energy use costs). Ms. McCarthy recommended calling the State Representative about this. This could also be the topic of a community outreach event. She also mentioned some towns have had success in partnering with an EDC or Chamber of Commerce and soliciting donations for the fuel or food bank(s) in town for business outreach campaigns.

State energy strategies were discussed: the goal is to have 80% of households weatherize by 2030. Eversource's goal is 20% energy reduction by 2018. Ms. McCarthy referenced the clean energy communities of Bloomfield, Clinton, Madison and Stafford when asked for model communities to look toward. Also discussed were education programs. Eversource offers a professional development program on STEM education and has a summer institute for teachers. There is also a k-12 contest for kids at eesmarts.com.

Communications: None

Town Staff Report: None

Old Business:

Ms. Rinaldi has spoken with science teachers at the High School and provided them with links to websites that have useful information about energy and/or education. She encouraged a field trip to Energize CT and mentioned that there is a rally for science on Earth Day, which is April 22, in Hartford.

New Business:

State Land – Response from DEEP/Next Steps: Mr. Gay was in contact with Tracy Babbidge, Bureau Chief of Energy and Technology Policy at CT DEEP regarding possible use of State Land (the previously mentioned land at the old Fireman's Field) for a solar project. Her emailed response is below:

"Brian-I am responding to your question regarding the use of state land for the development of energy related projects. The use of state land would require a detailed review and contracts/leases and you should know that it is not commonly allowed, as such use is generally not consistent with the purposes for which the land was acquired. To discuss further, it would be helpful to understand if your task force has a specific property in mind and whether you have already been in contact with anyone at DEEP or other state agencies. If not, that specific information could be sent to DEEP's Land Acquisition and Management group. They can be contacted at 860-424-3016, or through the Director of the Office, Graham Stevens at graham.stevens@ct.gov.

I hope this information is helpful.

Tracy Babbidge, Bureau Chief"

Other: Chairman Petrone asked that talks begin with the WPCA about a possible solar array. This was brought up in the past, but was not followed through with.

Ms. Rinaldi stated that the High School asked if any Task Force members would be willing to be a resource for students working on their seniors projects. Mr. Solomon and Mr. Gay stated they would help.

Mr. Gay alerted the task force to a legislative briefing for clean energy and climate action in CT, plus legislative action: Tuesday, 3/14/17, 7:00 P.M. at the Town Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building at 4 South Eagleville Rd., Mansfield, CT.

Public Remarks: None

Adjournment: *Chairman Petrone adjourned the meeting at 7:10 P.M.*

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza LoPresti
Recording Clerk