

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE**

REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

5:30PM

TOWN HALL 2nd FLOOR MEETING ROOM AND VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

Present: Russ Kaplan, David Price, Lorry Belanger, Jon Searles, Marty Podskoch and Jack Solomon.

Absent: None

Call to Order: Chairman Kaplan called the meeting to order at 5:33 P.M.

Approval of Minutes: August 1st, 2023: *A motion was made by Mr. Solomon, seconded by Mr. Podskoch, to approve of the August 1, 2023 regular meeting minutes with no changes. Voted 6-0 in favor.*

Public Remarks: Students from the High School attended the meeting. They are a part of the Interact Club in school. That club is a community service club participating within the school. Jill Leonard, Kerri Leonard, Sydney Pettiney, and Sonja Venetianer were all in attendance for the meeting.

Communications: None

A. Town Staff Report: None

Old Business: None

New Business

- A. Task Force Membership:** A letter was given to the chairman stating that Ms. Belanger will be resigning from the Task Force at the end of the month. This will leave two openings on the board for new members to fill. There was discussion on getting more volunteers or new members to join to fill the vacancies. It was suggested that the members work with the town staff to get articles and advertisements out about the board looking for more members.
- B. 2023-2024 Clean Energy Opportunities:** The members discussed looking into working with other groups and departments in town to advance and build up the events and programs/ projects the Task Force are looking to initiate. Mr. Greeno reached out to the housing authority in town, but received no response. The heat pumps in the senior housing were installed ten to eleven years ago. Furthermore, all of the buildings and units are fully electric. There is potential to have solar arrays built to help offset the cost of

utilities and to have conserve and cut back on energy consumption in the senior housing areas. Chairman Kaplan stated that he will be attending both upcoming meetings for the Commission on Aging and the Housing Authority. He intends to talk, share ideas, and make introductions with the members to see if they would be interested in working together on future initiatives. The Housing Authority helps with providing low income housing for seniors in town. The solar array option would benefit the senior housing since it would tie into the administrator meter. The town owns and rents the units to the seniors. Utilizing solar in that aspect would help the town save on electricity. *A motion was made by Mr. Solomon, seconded by Mr. Podskoch, to find a couple of solar contractors that are interested on working with the housing authority, and to see if renters/ residents are interested in getting solar in their area. Voted 6-0 in favor.*

The members briefly discussed the possibility of including the condo developments in the plan for getting solar arrays built in town. Condos would be difficult to work with for getting solar since they are individually owned. Also, it would make separating out the amount of energy for each condo would need and how much has been used would be unmanageable and impractical. Chairman Kaplan also reached out to the Commission on Aging and received good response and interest from the chair and other members of that committee. Community solar and efficiency can help the commission to gain interest in collaborating with the task force. It was suggested to reach out to a couple solar companies to get their opinion on solar for senior housing. The members also suggested reaching out to the Chair of the Housing Authority to get their ideas and thoughts on community solar for the seniors. Mr. Greeno suggested contacting CT Green Bank about utilizing solar for senior housing.

- C. Fall Energy Fair:** There was a suggestion to have an educational seminar about community solar at the energy fair. Mr. Price reached out to the High School Principal about possible dates to hold the fair. The Principal couldn't get a concrete date for the Task Force until after August 28th once the school calendar was set and sent out. Mr. Price will reach back out to secure a date. There was a brief overview of last year's fair to help better inform the students present. Presentations were held in the T-Bell room of the school. There was a suggestion to hold the event so it would coincide with the school's open house for next year. Another suggestion was to reach out to the school's PTO to get their ideas and opinions on the fair. The members discussed figuring out how to send flyers advertising the fair home with students to get parent's attention. The members would need to discuss that option with the PTO and Superintendent. There was a suggestion brought up about possibly holding the fair at the town hall. Another suggestion was to combine the car show and energy fair into one event. There was an energy fair held years ago at St. Clements that had great turn out. The target set date for the fair would be early November. *A motion was made by Mr. Kaplan, seconded by Mr. Podskoch, to authorize Mr. Price to set a date and location for the energy fair on behalf of the Task Force. Voted 6-0 in favor.* As soon as the date and location are set an email will be sent to the members with the information and their assigned companies to reach out and contact about the fair. The members should utilize Google doc to keep an updated list of the companies they went to and what the responses were.

New Business: The roof on the middle school is finished. It is a black roof.

A. Discussion of Task Force Meeting Time: The members briefly discussed the meeting time of 5:30 P.M. The meeting time as is works for all the members, so it will stay at the current time going forward.

Public Remarks: The students mentioned there is an environment club at school that may be interested in what the Task Force is doing in town.

Adjournment: *A motion was made by Mr. Kaplan, seconded by Mr. Solomon, to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 P.M. Voted 6-0 in favor.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Katrina Aligata

Recording Clerk