

Clean Energy Ad Hoc Committee Minutes 8/28/19

Present: Greg Ames, Marshall Cox, Bill Horne, and Sharon Huttner

Shirley McCarthy, Rick Saltz

Absent: Bob Babcock, Elena Cahill, Chris Lenda

Guests: David and Marjorie Schneider

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1. The minutes of 8/14/2019 were approved unanimously on a motion by Marshall Cox and seconded by Sharon Huttner.
2. HeatSmart grant: discussed at meeting with Jamie Cosgrove on Monday 8/19. He wants clarification about town's involvement in selection of air heat pump vendors and would like to know what other towns have done. Eversource has a list of approved vendors. Mark Scully from PACE provided information from other similar programs in MA, NY, and elsewhere, which was forwarded to Jamie Cosgrove. He also wanted to know if we had a timeline for different projects.
3. **Electric Vehicles:** Jamie Cosgrove is ready to purchase the first such vehicle for the town. Marshall Cox has created an EV bid document and he and Greg will add a few specifications. Charging stations have not been decided yet.
4. Electric school buses were discussed following distribution of an article from Marshall Cox demonstrating the large cost savings as well as health benefits. Shirley McCarthy followed up with a phone call and left a message with First Student Bus company and is waiting to hear. Bill Horne suggested that Eversource might have some pilot programs in CT. Rick Saltz suggested reading the bus contract. Greg Ames suggested coordinating with other towns. Sharon Huttner will get some information from DEEP about using the Volkswagon settlement money for electric buses.
5. Cathy Lezon, public relations liaison for Eversource was asked to attend one of our meetings. Cathy Lezon is concerned about affordability of clean energy for everyone. Bill Horne described their program for helping customers finance conversion to heat pumps. The PACE grant allows more money for lower income residents. Bill Horne reminded us that 40% of Branford school children qualify for free lunch. Greg Ames suggested having Mark Scully at that meeting as well. Bill Horne pointed out that Eversource is a multiutility parent company and owns electric as well as gas companies (Nstar and Yankee Gas). Greg Ames will follow up.
6. Press release: Bill Horne will re-ask the Tesla representative to provide annual results from the Tabor solar array. Bob Babcock has a lot of information. Sharon Huttner will try to get press release information from the Sierra Club Ready for 100 program.
7. There is discussion about placing a second solar array west of Ecology Park where a dump existed. Our schools could possibly use the electricity generated here.
8. Ready for 100 - Sharon Huttner described the introductory webinar from Sierra Club's Ready for 100. She will continue to liaison with them.

9. Sharon Huttner reported attending a clean energy-networking meeting which was attended by many different stakeholders. She will email us related documents. She contacted Daphne Dixon and will contact Lee Graniss from New Haven Clean Cities.
10. Fall Schedule: Shirley McCarthy accommodated everyone's requests so that they could make at least 1 meeting per month and will send it out shortly.
11. Net metering: a discussion included having electricity generated from Branford panels stay in Branford so that we don't have to rely on transmission from other grids especially after storm damage. Need to find out if we can net meter if there is no grid near us.
Greg Ames and Bill Horne suggested that we should consider having a micro grid in the center of town for critical buildings, e.g. firehouse, police station. Marshall Cox suggested that battery storage is a difficult and expensive problem with grids. Rick Saltz suggested that the town would probably use all the electricity generated during the day and then storage wouldn't be a problem.
12. Honeywell contract- Jamie discovered that his contact has left Honeywell so he will talk to someone else in the company. Sharon Huttner pointed out that we need a baseline to compare to regarding our future accomplishments in energy usage.
13. Choate campus field trip will be after Labor Day. Rick will provide possible dates for during the daytime hours.
14. Greg Ames moved adjournment, Rick Saltz seconded, and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Huttner