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BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

Clean Energy Ad Hoc Committee Minutes 6/17/19

Present: Greg Ames, Bob Babcock, Elena Cahill, Bill Horne, Shirley McCarthy

Absent: Chris Lenda, Rick Saltz

Guests: Sharon Huttner, Diane Lentakis from the Sierra Club, Don Hammond from Sol View

Old Business:

1. S. McCarthy announced that B. Babcock had been appointed as a member of the committee by the Board of Selectmen.
2. It was decided by consensus that Committee meetings will be at 7:00 on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays until further notice (at least through the summer), starting Wednesday 6/26.
3. On a motion by G. Ames, seconded by B. Horne, the minutes of the 1/20,2/25,4/15,5/6 and 5/20 (5/20 as corrected) meetings were approved unanimously.
4. S. McCarthy reported that she, E. Cahill, S. Huttner and D. Lentakis staffed the table at the Branford festival, distributed literature and received a positive reception from festival attendees.
5. D. Lentakis provided an overview of the Sierra Club Ready for 100 program for which she is the Connecticut state lead. She will send a summary of her presentation which included the following:

The program is a grass roots effort whose goal is to achieve 100% clean energy in all sectors by 2050.

The Sierra Club is coordinating its efforts with PACE and several other organizations. Hartford, New Haven and Milford are in the forefront of this effort.

A statewide campaign plan is being formulated that is intended to serve as a template for municipal plans. She will forward as soon as it is available.

Two documentary films suitable for public presentation are available. (Might be appropriate for a viewing at the Libraries or for a Branford Forum presentation).

Speakers are also available.

The RF100 program provides a grassroots structure to build community support for the program goals. Moving ahead with this requires establishing a core group in the town.

The committee expressed wholehearted support for this effort as a parallel effort to our work and offered to help identify people who might be enthusiastic candidates for a core group. S. Huttner volunteered to spearhead the effort to establish a core group.

Diane can be reached at 203 922 2151 or dlentakis@sbcglobal.net

6. There was an animated discussion about the SolView proposal which centered around how to provide cost and value information for prospective buyers in a manner which will be attractive without raising unwarranted expectations. The committee will discuss ideas for the letter to residents at the meeting next Wednesday.

New Business:

7. B. Horne along with E. Cahill and B. Babcock will contact Jamie Cosgrove to find out more about what the Honeywell contract provides the Town.
8. B. Babcock will contact Terry Elton about obtaining data on renewables in other towns from the Conference of Connecticut Municipalities (CCM).

9. E. Cahill notes that lack of funding for renewables on municipal buildings could be overcome by using power purchase agreements.
10. It was observed that the committee needs to work closely with the Town financial administration.
11. B. Horne moved adjournment, B. Babcock seconded, approved by unanimous vote.
12. Next meeting will be Wednesday 6/26 at Canoe Brook.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Ames

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