

Branford Clean Energy Ad Hoc Committee

Minutes

2-25-19

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Location: Montowese Room, Canoe Brook Center

Present: S McCarthy, G Ames, C Lenda, R Silten, F Gasparro, W Horne, R. Saltz

FG called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM

1. The minutes of the 1-22-19 meeting were approved with one correction (typo).

2. Old Business

a. Mission statement - revision

The draft mission statement circulated by R Saltz was discussed. It was agreed to have a short statement that would be consistent with action item C1a in the Plan of Conservation and Development ("Promote energy conservation / sustainability / use of renewable energy sources.", POCD page 105). There was tentative agreement on "Accelerate Branford's transition to sustainable energy", with several alternative suggestions for the first word.

b. Formulating a response to 2018 SB9's elimination of annual net metering - letter to Legislature Energy & Technology Committee about net metering or renewable energy.

The draft letter circulated by B Horne was discussed. There was consensus that the information in the letter justified the length. It was decided to (1) add a paragraph at the beginning stating that the letter is from the First Selectman or the committee as the First Selectman decides and a brief statement calling for restoration of annual net metering, and (2) submit the draft to the First Selectman to decide if it should be sent and who the letter should be from (the First Selectman and/or the committee).

c. Consideration of the Renewable Energy and Efficiency Business Association (REEBA) residential solar aggregation proposal.

At the January meeting, the First Selectman requested that the committee advise him about the REEBA residential solar aggregation program. F Gasparo reported that his call to REEBA Exec Director Michaud requesting more information was never returned. The committee decided to inform the First Selectman that it could not make a recommendation without more information about the program.

d. Nature of our minutes: the town clerk has advised us to avoid using abbreviations and acronyms when submitting our agendas and minutes.

3. New Business

a. In discussions since the January 25 meeting, several committee members had pointed out that the committee charge proposed in the POCD and the energy-related Sustainable CT action items are broader than just clean energy and questioned whether the name of the committee might be changed to something involving energy sustainability. The committee discussed the issue and decided that the process of changing the name would likely require more effort than justified by the potential gain.

- b. The committee discussed which areas and action items to prioritize as it begins its work. Increasing the number of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in town, getting the Town to purchase electric- or other renewable fuel-powered vehicles as current vehicles are replaced, increasing energy efficiency in Town buildings, and working with the Planning, Building and Engineering departments to identify and adopt revision changes that will facilitate and promote energy sustainability were among the topics considered. Two working groups were formed: electric vehicles (increasing charging station availability, purchasing EVs; G. Ames, F. Gasparro, S. McCarthy, R. Silten) and sustainable energy infrastructure (B. Horne, C. Lenda, R. Saltz; benchmarking energy use, increasing building energy efficiency, regulation changes). G. Ames will go to H. Smith about potential changes that can be made in the zoning regs as suggested in CTSustainability.
- c. There was discussion about a few committee members meeting with the Economic Development Committee to see if they have discussed renewable energy businesses and/or infrastructure.
- d. C. Lenda was asked to follow up on energy use benchmarking and building energy audits.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

The next committee meeting will be March 25, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

F. Gasparro