

Minutes -- Clean Energy Ad Hoc Committee Meeting 2/28/22

Present: Committee members G. Ames, M. Cohen, B. Horne, S. Huttner, S. McCarthy, E. Mahler, J Prins, D. Rabin

Absent: B. Babcock, M. Cox, E. Cahill, Diana McCarthy-Bercury

Members of the public : Jim Stepanek

Chair McCarthy opened the meeting at 4:00 pm. The minutes of the 1/24/22 meeting were approved; moved by G. Ames, seconded by D. Rabin. The minutes of the 2/17/22 meeting were approved; moved by J. Prins, seconded by S. Huttner.

Solar for all- E. Mahler reported that to date 60 homeowners have contacted PosiGen, 24 leases have been signed and approved to go forward, 31 homeowners have been scheduled or rescheduled, 17 approved for installation, 8 fully installed and in production. E. Mahler reported that the Green Bank will not be involved in this program for 2022. Eversource will provide two programs-buy-all incentive or netting incentive. Homeowners can still get the 26% Federal tax incentive until the end of this year. S. Huttner is investigating solar options for Turtle Bay Condominium Association.

Solar Canopies – D. Rabin reported that this is continuing at a low level. Contacts have been made but have not resulted in any follow-up inquiries. The preliminary Community House project analysis is not particularly positive but G. Ames suggested looking at intervalling data. Earthlight will present the final results to Alex Paluzzi and/or the Parks and Recreation Board.

Eversource Business Initiative- D. Rabin reported that there have been a few attempts to reach out to the Branford business community. B. Babcock and he have met with the Rotary and Economic Development Commission with positive results. The committee is in the process of designing a brochure.

Electric Vehicles- S. Huttner reported that a Kia Niro has been purchased by the town and will be used by the social worker at the Police Department. She also summarized the recent incentives being offered by Eversource for EV charging stations for residential and commercial customers. G. Ames asked if the new Animal Shelter would qualify under the environmental justice community incentives since it is located in that zone on the DEEP map. S. Huttner will follow up on that. J. Prins is working on getting information from Hamden Public Schools about how they obtained an Electric Bus through First Student.

Net Zero Policy- G. Ames reported that he sent out the draft proposed Net Zero Energy Policy for Branford's Town Buildings asking for comments from the committee members and other experts in the field. The Animal Shelter is half-way through construction and is coming along well. He also shared a website from the town of Manchester, CT - <https://www.mpspride.org/Page/821> which explains Net Zero Energy Policy in a clear understandable way. There was discussion about the best way to educate the community about the benefits of this policy.

New Business :

CT Quadrennial Comprehensive Energy Strategy – B. Horne reported about these hearings on 3/3 and suggested how members of the committee could contribute testimony to the legislature

Website update – M. Cohen reported that we need to decide whether to renew paying for our websites. We currently have three websites, Branford Energy, Branford Energy Business, and Heatsmart. He suggested that we combine these three into one. He will send the sites to the committee members to evaluate this idea.

B. Horne moved to adjourn the meeting. S. Huttner seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.