

Clean Energy Ad Hoc Committee 4/26/21 meeting minutes

Attending: Shirley McCarthy, Greg Ames, Bob Babcock, Elena Cahill, Bill Horne, Sharon Huttner, Eunice Mahler, John Prins, Dan Rabin, Diana McCarthy-Bercury, Michael Cohen

Absent: Marshall Cox

1. The minutes of the 3/22/21 meeting were approved unanimously; Greg Ames moved, Bob Babcock seconded.
2. EV Update- Sharon Huttner reported that she and John Hoefflerle, Town Engineer and representatives from an EV charging station company held an exploratory walk around the center of town evaluating possible sites for Branford charging stations. These included the front of Town Hall, the Municipal Parking Lot on Park Place and Exit 56 parking areas. Eversource will have a Make Ready program in place in CT in Feb, 2022. Branford can apply for incentives through that program.
3. A petition in support of Electric School Buses for Branford was started on Earth Day and will be continue to be presented to residents during town wide events.
4. Bob Babcock reported on the Business Energy Efficiency program. Eversource has been very supportive of this effort. The Chamber of Commerce will be contacting their membership about this program. Michael Cohen has set up a website for businesses to get more information about this on Branford's town website. The new brewery on Rt 139 and Hospice are interested in more information.
5. Bill Horne reported on Biofuels. The Connecticut Energy Marketers Association suggested that we add a statement about Biofuels in the Branford Energy Plan. This is a very complicated topic and more time is needed to summarize this accurately before we can add it to the plan.
6. Diana McCarthy-Bercury reported on a new Energy Scoping Study proposed by Eversource. They will come to Branford school buildings (pre-k – 12) and scope out any energy improvement projects the schools may have. They help finance the changes needed to achieve these efficiencies. This is different from the UCONN study which told us HOW we are using energy at the building level not which systems use the most energy or WHAT IS NEEDED to achieve greater energy efficiency. John Prins and Diana will meet with Eversource and the engineering firm NDV to get more information about this offering and see if we can qualify for another program called Better Building Challenge.
7. Energy Star Partner of the Year application process will open in the summer and materials will be gathered from members of the Clean Energy committee and the town for the submission. By joining the Energy Star Partner program, the EPA will share their marketing materials for the town to use to promote energy efficient technology.
8. Eunice Mahler reported on the Solar For All program. Posigen Solar and CT Green Bank have put together a program for buyers who can't afford to put up any money upfront. Michael Cohen and Dan Rabin will also support this given their experience with the Heatsmart program.

9. Elena Cahill suggested holding public information sessions perhaps quarterly to answer any questions the community might have about energy use/efficiency. The committee agreed that this was a good idea.
10. Blue Earth Compost will be starting a 6 month pilot program with curbside pickup subsidized by the town of Branford in the Short Beach community. This program will start June 1 and run through November. Two containers will be placed at the Transfer station for food waste as well. This will help the town save on our municipal solid waste disposal costs.
11. Dan Rabin reported about home owners' associations limiting solar installations. He asked for members to send in specific stories gathered from Branford residents who are experiencing this problem. Robin Comey, our state representative is interested in working on this issue.
6. Public comments centered on procedural issues.
7. On a motion by Eunice Mahler and seconded by Bob Babcock, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.