

Clean Energy Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes 3/9/20, 5:00-6:00 pm

Present: Greg Ames, Bill Horne, Sharon Huttner, Shirley McCarthy

Absent: Elena Cahill, Bob Babcock, Marshall Cox

Guests: Michael Cohen, Donna Laich, Dan Rabin, Dorothy Ruggiero

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1. Bill Horne moved to approve the minutes of 2/24/20, Greg Ames seconded; motion passed unanimously
2. Shirley McCarthy reported about viewing the 3/5/20 DEEP EV conference webinar with Greg Ames, Sharon Huttner and Jim Finch. Greg Ames also reported that there is money available through the VW settlement for charging stations. Greg Ames and Shirley McCarthy will follow through with Jim Finch about contacting Motiv and possibly the consultant mentioned for Town fleet electrification. An electric van was suggested for the Senior Center and Orchard House.
3. Sharon Huttner suggested that we renew efforts to get an Energy Manager for Branford and will reach out to PACE for more specific information. Bill Horne suggested we talk to Jamie Cosgrove, Board of Finance and the RTM Administrative Services Committee.
4. Earth Day on the Green, 4/25, this year will be more extensive including an EV Fair involving local resident's offering their EV's to provide rides/education for Branford citizens. Shirley McCarthy will talk to the knowledgeable Chevy dealer who sells Chevy Bolts about attending the Fair. Donna Laich will talk to a spokesperson from Westport who helped convince their police department to purchase some EVs.
5. The committee discussed awards for Branford companies with sustainable/renewable energy policies. Bill Horne suggested consulting the Economic Development Commission on this issue. Elena Cahill will be talking to the commission at their next meeting on clean energy financing available.
6. Energy plan - Greg Ames suggested we adopt the state goal of 50% conversion of our municipal fleet by 2030. We are still seeking the exact number of solar installations in Branford. Chris Lenda may help us with this.
7. Heatsmart followup - A meeting with Jamie Cosgrove will be set to review the town attorney's changes to the contract.
8. New Business: solar farms - Dorothy Ruggiero asked the committee for guidance as to how her family can convert part of their property located at Chestnut Street and Coon Ledge Road in Branford to a solar field. Greg Ames suggested that the family consult with an experienced company. Another option is to set up a community solar field for Branford. The property's wetland section would entail going to the Inland/Wetlands Commission. The family will give the committee feedback after they discuss their options.

9. Bill Horne motioned to adjourn the meeting and Greg Ames seconded it, motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Sharon Huttner