

Clean Energy Ad Hoc Committee February 22, 2021 5:00 PM

Present: S. McCarthy; D. Rabin; M. Cox (departed at 5:30 pm); S. Huttner; B. Horne; B. Babcock; G. Ames; M. Cohen; J. Prins; D. McCarthy-Bercury.

Absent: E. Mahler; E. Cahill; J Gordon

Approval on meeting minutes of the 1/25/2021 moved by J. Prins, seconded by R. Babcock.

- 1) Biofuels. B Horne gave a short update regarding Biofuels that he and M. Cox have been working on. A paragraph on BioFuels will be added to the Energy Plan. A more elaborate report will be made in the near future.
- 2) HeatSmart. M. Cohen discussed how he has been working on how we can better expand the program for low-income people. Mike brought up groups such as Seniors, Food Bank recipients, Counseling Center families, fuel assistance individuals, trailer park residents (have already been visited), Community Dining room families. Also discussed was how the utilities can be of assistance.
- 3) HeatSmart Business. B. Babcock discussed various meetings that he and D. Rabin have attended that were held by Eversource, U.I. and Southern CT Gas. Bob informed the committee about the incredible incentives being offered to the business community by the utilities ranging from small businesses to exceptionally large. Also, discussed was a meeting with Branford's EDC, attended by E. Cahill, D. Rabin and B. Babcock as a Zoom meeting. D. Rabin and B. Babcock had a Zoom meeting with the Branford Chamber of Commerce.
- 4) Earth Day. D. McCarthy-Bercury informed us that Earth Day will be on April 17, 2021 from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM. The first half of the meeting will be about cleanup projects; the second half will include vendors and like-minded groups. J. Prins suggested we contact the High school Principal for information to get further help from the interested students.
- 5) GPRO (Green Building Professional Operations). G. Ames informed the committee about a three-day educational program geared toward systematically addressing the needs of a building to bring it up to a "Green Standard". Greg will be taking the course and encouraged others in the building /service and maintenance roll within Branford to also register for the course. Continuous improvement is the key to this program. Example, if we are redoing a roof, that is a good time to increase the insulation in the attic. The course will be given on March 2, 3 & 4.
- 6) Public Comment.
 - a) Donna Laich Asked about the Environmental Club at the High School. J. Prins directed her to the Principal.
 - b) Jim Stepanek complemented and was pleased by the H.E.S. team that went to his house for an energy audit as part of the HeatSmart program.
 - c) Caroline Sires asked how she can help advertise HeatSmart. S. Mccarthy said that she would email her information.
 - d) Kate Galambos suggested that town regulations could be changed to support energy efficiency and clean energy initiatives.
- 7) Motion to adjourn: B. Babcock, seconded by J. Prins.