

2023 MAY 23 A 10:43

**Branford Clean Energy Ad Hoc Committee
Meeting Minutes April, 24, 2023**

Walter Angin
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

Members present: S. McCarthy, D. Rabin, B. Babcock, E. Mahler, G. Ames, A. Corry, S. Huttner, M. Cohen, Donna Laich, J Killelea, J Prins. Absent: E Cahill

S. McCarthy opened the meeting at 4:05 pm

1. Approved minutes from 3/27/23: B.Babcock moved; D. Rabin seconded – *approved unanimously*
2. **PowerSmart Campaign:** E. Mahler reported that a PowerSmart information session would be held on April 27, 2003 at the Branford Community House and urged Energy Committee members to attend and to distribute the flyer announcing the session to community groups in Branford such as Home Owners Associations. The Branford Patch, Facebook and the town of Branford website were discussed as additional possible announcement channels.
3. **Website; Leaf Blowers:** A. Corry discussed the need to limit the use of gas powered leaf blowers during early morning and late afternoon hours. He noted that the Town of Westport had enacted an ordinance imposing restrictions on their use and believed that Branford should consider doing the same.
4. **Schools:** B. Babcock and J. Prins discussed the Energy Resolution adopted by the Board of Ed. Discussion ensued as to whether specific actions by the Board of Ed. would be forthcoming to implement the intent of the resolution. There is one subcommittee that J. Prins is talking to that will regularly check on follow through. To this end, further contact with the Board of Ed. may be appropriate. This should also include contact with First Student, the school bus company used by Branford.
5. **Net Zero:** G. Ames reported that meetings are needed with Eversource regarding the Animal Shelter and the Transfer Station regarding energy consumption and possible energy cost savings. G. Ames noted that the location of the equipment was very important. Land Trust was also very interested. Eversource Energy is looking into possible energy savings at the Old Landfill. The Tabor site could need some upgrading with a determination of possible savings. An announcement flyer was given to the board entitled “Decarbonizing Communities & Campuses” which outlines the need to coordinate and guide ongoing efforts to reach sustainability goals and to learn what has worked and where challenges exist in Communities, Campuses and Affordable Housing.
6. **HeatSmart:** D. Rabin reported that he had discussions with Eversource and funds will be available for both East Haven and Branford if and when the grant is approved. He has also talked with contractors to determine income eligible residents of these towns. He is trying to find key people who can help him contact key people at churches and civic organizations in East Haven.

7. **Small Business Energy Efficiency:** B. Babcock indicated that program money was expected sometime in late May – Mid June. EV chargers are being installed in Branford with 70% of the cost being reimbursed to the town.
8. **Budget Meetings:** S. Huttner reported that she met with Alex Paluzzi of Parks and Rec. Dept. An EV charger has now been installed at Foote Park. Orchard House has new trucks which are hybrid/electric.
9. **Earth Day:** Very successful! S. McCarthy noted that Climate Reality meets once each month and someone from our committee is needed to join into that group's Zoom meeting.
10. **New Business:** Tax incentives, IRA rebates will be sent out to the committee.
11. **Meeting Adjourned:** 5:15 p.m. B. Babcock so moved; S. Huttner seconded.
Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted : J. Killelea