

Minutes for Branford Ad Hoc Clean Energy Committee 11/27/2023

Attendance: Gregory Ames, Jim Killelea, John Prins, Daniel Rabin, Sharon Huttner, Eunice Mahler, Tyler Bowne, Jim Killelea, Donna Laich, Michael Cohen, Vincent Chiochio, Elena Cahill, Shirley McCarthy

Absent: Bob Babcock, Adrian Corry

The meeting was called to order at 4:00. The minutes of 10/23/23 were approved, moved by John Prins, seconded by Dan Rabin.

DRabin: Community Partnership Round 2:

- Branford MOU has been approved, not executed. East Haven MOU has been executed and funds have been received.
- Buck slips for Food Pantry and Social Services have been produced.
- A letter from Town Hall to residents in East Haven has gone out. A letter to businesses in East Haven to go out in January.
- A meeting of the East Haven Team will take place in January. We plan to get the East Haven people to take over the East Haven programs with our help.
- Dan stressed the importance of having a backup procedure for the HeatSmart tracking data.

EMahler: PowerSmart :

- Big changes in incentive programs are imminent.
- Need to establish a method to track interest in and follow up on Solar installations. Adding solar and batteries on to the existing HeatSmart campaign was discussed.

TBowne: Green Bank meeting:

- Adding another area of solar panels in Ecology Park is being evaluated.
- Assigning the output to Schools and other town buildings was discussed.

SHuttner: Repair Café:

- The throw-away of repairable items produces waste and additional pollution.
- A very successful Repair Cafe was held at the Community Center in Guilford.
- It was proposed that we have one in Branford. Questions of Liability for repairs made were considered and will be addressed.

GAmes: Buildings:

- The reasons for the Animal Shelter using more energy than expected are still being researched.
- Energy efficiency for the Police Station upgrade is being considered at an earlier phase of the design process and is expected to be successful.
- Greg Ames suggested a person at Town Hall be identified to deal with energy efficiency in town buildings, eg Tyler Bowne.

JPrins: schools:

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- The new Superintendent of schools has been very supportive of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy.
- New EV school busses are on order. They will be introduced gradually. Supply may be an issue.

SMcCarthy: 6.3 regulation revision:

- Was withdrawn primarily due to opposition from Perry Maresca (Manager, Economic and Business Development) because he thought it might inhibit development. The revision goals were to improve public health, help abate the biodiversity crisis and mitigate climate change via encouraging preservation of mature native trees, removal of invasives and using more native plants (better at climate mitigation and critical for wildlife). (Rewilding is climate mitigation via helping certain wildlife species survive.) Greenwich just adopted a new reg that promotes the above.

Greg Ames commented why are we not following the principles of Smart Development. Who will want to live here if we are not going to manage the quality of the development that we permit?

New Business:

- Eunice Mahler pointed out that electricity costs are expected to go up less steeply this summer. Perhaps this is the result of lower fuel costs and using more solar and wind energy.

Donna Laich moved the meeting was Adjourned at 5:07; seconded Sharon Huttner.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Cohen