

Branford Clean Energy Ad Hoc Committee Minutes 12/18/23

Present: S. McCarthy (Chair), T. Bowne, J.Killelea, J. Prins, , R. Babcock, G. Ames, E. Mahler, S. Huttner, :
D.Laich, D. Rabin Absent, A.Corry, E.Cahill, V. Chiochio
Special Guest: Terri Cain, Guilford Sustainable Committee

S. McCarthy called the meeting to order. The Minutes of 11/27/23 were unanimously approved on a motion by J. Prins and a second by D. Laich.

REPAIR CAFÉ-S. Huttner introduced Special Guest: Terri Cain, Chair, Guilford Sustainable Task Force who described the Repair Café event held at the Guildford Community House Nov. 2023 where residents can bring broken small appliances, faulty electronics or clothing to be mended. Repair Café, is an international organization which started in the Netherlands in 2009. ([Https: www.repaircafe.org](https://www.repaircafe.org)). Handy persons volunteer to help fix these items. Another part of this initiative is to encourage members of the community to engage with each other. The event was a huge success with people coming from as far away as Old Saybrook. T. Cain described the logistics of the event and answered many questions form members of the CEC. T. Cain invited Branford to be a part of the next Repair Café event to be scheduled in April. S. Huttner, D. Laich, T. Bowne, and J.Prins volunteered to be on a subcommittee to work on this project.

HEATSMART ROUND 2 – D. Rabin reported that we currently have 2 grants for Branford and 2 grants for East Haven. East Haven’s program has received very favorable media coverage, a letter from East Haven town hall has been mailed. Since the start of the program on Oct, 2023, 184 people have signed up, 38 from Branford. The New Haven community action agency will help reach out to income eligible residents of East Haven. Branford social services will help reach out to income eligible residents of Branford. A HeatSmart training luncheon will be held February 9 including all East Haven and Branford personnel and agencies involved in this program. J.Killelea will be reaching out to the houses of worship. S. Huttner will be reaching out to the libraries.

B. Babcock reported that the meeting with the East Haven Chamber of Commerce went well. Michelle Benevendo has been a tremendous help and will help connect the East Haven’s EDC to this program. The East Haven small business program will begin in January.

BUILDINGS, ANIMAL SHELTER- G. Ames and T. Bowne reported that the energy efficiency systems at the Animal Shelter are not working together causing an increase in energy use there. V. Chiochio and G. Ames have a plan. The planning for the Police Station has been coordinated across town agencies. The Land Trust has been very interested in energy efficiencies for their current building restoration.

SOLAR PROJECTS- T. Bowne reported that Tesla has been contacted to repair the dysfunctional solar panels at the Taber field solar array. The Green bank has been consulted about installing solar at Ecology Park. The solar arrays at Tisko and Murphy elementary schools are now operational.

POWERSMART- E. Mahler reported that current battery incentives went from \$7,500 to \$16,000 maximum. She will attend a contractor’s webinar in January. Special consideration will be given to Income Eligible customers. Please send opportunities for presentations in East Haven to E. Mahler.

ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES- J. Prins reported that the Board of Education will be voting on a new school bus contract which includes electric school busses. He encouraged members of the committee to attend the Board of Education meeting to express support for electric school busses.

MUNICIPAL EV FLEET-S. Huttner reported that the police department was contacted about adding an EV to their fleet but were not interested at this time.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Babcock seconded by S. Huttner and approved unanimously.

Submitted by S. Huttner

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