

Branford Clean Energy Ad Hoc Committee Agenda 4/15/24 @ 4 pm

Present: John Prins, Donna Laich, Greg Ames, Sharon Huttner, Mike Cohen, Eunice Mahler, Shirley McCarthy, Jim Killelea, Bob Babcock

Absent: Dan Rabin, Elena Cahill, Vince Chiochio, Tyler Bowne

Neil Shapiro
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

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Chair McCarthy called meeting to order at 4:02p

1. **Minutes** of 2/19/24 meeting approved unanimously (there was no March meeting)
2. **JPrins: Schools**

Several committee members attended Governor Ned Lamont's press briefing at Mary Tisko Elementary School celebrating solar installation there and at Mary T. Murphy schools and Branford's commitment to clean energy. He promoted a bill seeking legislative approval that would remove barriers to towns and their public [school] buildings adopting solar energy as modeled by Branford.

3. **SMcCarthy; Volunteer event 4/19 8-11am**

Chair McCarthy described high school event, a community expo in the BHS common area that will highlight/introduce community non-profit organizations to help students decide where they might choose to volunteer for their community service hours. At BHS Common Area on Friday, April 19 from 8a to 1:00p.

Eunice suggested that may be a good time to check in with Mallory Legman, BHS Environmental Club advisor for potential student volunteers/participants on CE committee.

4. **MCohen: Solar canopies**

Mike spoke of Lou Tagliatelli and Franklin Construction Co. who achieved a novel approach to providing benefits of solar for building electricity to Hamden apartment tenants. BBabcock suggested calling Branford's Tax Assessor to start to explore how we might scale such an initiative for Branford. Mike to talk to Vigliotti and Town Tax Assessor to find property management associations who might be amenable.

Mike to call Mr. Tagliatelli. Bob Babcock suggested a presentation by Franklin Construction and Green Bank. Chair McCarthy appointed Donna Laich, Mike Cohen, Eunice Mahler to follow up.

5. **SMcCarthy: Earth Day 4/27 10a to 1p**

Committee members to staff a table on the town green. Providing info: Dan Rabin and Bob Babcock– HeatSmart and Energy Efficiency campaign; Sharon Huttner and Donna Laich – EVS;

Donna asked about Blue Earth [food waste service]. Sharon to follow up since she started one in Turtle Bay and is familiar with them.

6. **BBabcock: Energy efficiency campaign**

Bob reported that even though the Town of East Haven is on board, they are experiencing some drawbacks. 1540 letters to go out to businesses in the next two weeks describing significant savings from switching to LEDs, insulation.

7. **GAmes: Buildings/Public Buildings Commission**

Greg reported on Police Department project – RTM just unanimously funded design and construction. Public Building Commission to undertake a Selection Study to look at geothermal life-cycle cost re: gas; gas source heating & cooling; heat pump. Greg indicated that we would also be encouraging storage capacity.

Charging EV cruisers (that would be in constant use) has been cited by them as a challenge. PBC process is being improved by initiating steps like engaging a highly qualified construction manager from the outset.

8. SHuttner: Repair Cafe

Sharon reported Café to be held Saturday, May 25, from 9a to 1p at Trinity Church on the Branford Green. Planning group meeting tentatively set for May 21.

9. SMcCarthy: Meeting with Tom Cama, Lak Keshwala of Charge+Zone/Parkour GP Fund and Perry Maresca, Bob Babcock, Greg Ames, Sharon Huttner and Shirley Mccarthy re: what they are trying to accomplish. SHuttner, EMahler and DLaich will form a subcommittee to map out charging station locations to figure out how to install more EV chargers where they are needed and how to make charging better in Branford.

10. SMcCarthy: TBowne has submitted climate leadership award

Chair McCarthy reported that Tyler Bowne has been hired by the Regional Water Authority. Everyone expressed disappointment but great appreciation for his work in the time he was with us.

11. New Business

Jim Killelea plans to meet with church-based, East Shore Catholic Academy “Lunch Bunch” to create clean energy inroads into area houses of worship

12. Unanimous vote to adjourn at 5:26p