

Clean Energy Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes 1/25/21

Members present: S. Huttner, B. Babcock, S. McCarthy, E. Mahler, J. Prins, D. Rabin, G. Ames, D. McCarthy-Bercury, E. Cahill, M. Cox, J. Gordon, B. Horne

Absent: None

1. Chair S. McCarthy called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00.
2. The minutes of 12/14/20 were approved on a motion by B. Babcock and a second by D. Rabin.
3. M. Cohen reported on the successful progress of the HeatSmart program.
4. D. Bercury led discussion about:
 - Energy assistance programs for customers having difficulty paying utility bills.
 - Blue Earth composting and anerobic digestion, including the potential for initiating a facility somewhere along the CT shoreline for Branford and several neighboring towns.
 - Biofuels- B. Horne and M. Cox will investigate how we might incorporate biofuels in the committee's work and the energy plan.
 - D. Bercury has obtained a grant of the hardware required for a Solar Hot Water (SHW) system at the Animal Shelter. D. Bercury offered to help the schools and other agencies to apply for similar SHW grants.
 - She is looking for parties interested in participating in an April 22 Earth Day celebration. J. Prins suggested soliciting the school principals.
5. S. Huttner reported that a new round of DERA (Diesel Emissions Reduction Act) is underway. The Town is prioritizing Town vehicles to electrify. She is also establishing a transportation working group that will include Donna Laich.
6. B. Babcock and E. Cahill are working with Eversource to identify and publicize programs for energy incentives for business.
7. E Mahler reported that the tax credit for batteries has been extended for another 2 years, has been expanded to include batteries charged by grid power of 75% or more renewables, and will be supported by a state loan program. Three of our solar installers are interested in doing a Q&A educational webinar.
8. Public Comment: Several members of the public asked questions about Electric Vehicle battery sustainability, solar projects, and the Town's projects.
9. Adjournment was moved by B. Babcock, seconded by E. Mahler and voted at approximately 6:05. The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 pm.