

Clean Energy Task Force (CETF) Meeting Minutes – 7-14-2021

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM. Present were:

CETF: Phil Purciello; Mark Scully; Bob Beinstein; Amy McLean (6:48pm)

Town Staff: Ray Harris

Public: Bayard Faithfull, Susan Olson

Public Audience:

- Susan shared that Hartford declared a climate emergency. Planning for student engagement this summer to capture their sentiment.
- Mark shared that the CETF Climate Emergency Declaration has been tabled until an energy manager is hired to oversee the initiative.

Approval of June 9, 2021 Minutes:

- Bob motioned to approve without edits, Mark seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Update on Sustainable CT:

- We know there are some opportunities that we have now that we did not have before. We know we need three equity events that are accessible and inclusive.
- The intention is still to merge the Sustainability Committee and CETF committees to Sustainable Simsbury; ideally, we could begin to have shared meetings before merging.
- Bob asked if merging would require an act by the BoS – to which Mark answered yes.
- Phil asked questions around Sustainability Committee membership, Mark shared the actions within the Sustainable CT framework and how various boards and commissions are engaged.

Update on Board of Education:

- BoE got out request for proposal; received a bid for a Zero Emission Renewable Energy Credits – payment the developer would receive for the environmental benefits from utilizing solar.
- The high school received seven bids for solar which to this point have been narrowed to four.

Collaboration on Updated Energy Plan:

- Need to update plan date to July.
- The energy plan was circulated, Tom had specific recommendations for implementation:
 - Energy Efficiency in Buildings – Would there be a desire to update our building code to provide minimum energy efficiency values that are higher than what the state regulates?
 - Approach – #1 what is the process for seeking community input?
 - Renewable Energy – 2021 goals, solar on town and school roofs – many town buildings are not conducive to solar. Mark update to include “viable”.
 - How will we achieve 50%... - Updated bullet to “Submit bid for shared solar facility on town land...”.

- Transportation – any need to specify vehicle types; update “Achieve 50%” slide to add a note that we will aim for 80% conversion as finance and technology is available. This bullet was further broken out to include flexibility for emerging clean energy technology.
 - “Achieve 50%” slide - Charging Stations – goal should be to have it at all major town facilities.
 - Microgrids – should it be defined as Clean/Renewable microgrids.
- Bob offered that may be a good way to implement but may not be applicable within the scope of the plan.
- The taskforce had a discussion around what the appropriate level of detail for the document is.
- Mark would like for CETF to be engaged more with Planning and understand what is on their agenda.
- Mark updated the energy plan to include working with town staff for approach and implementation and made note that the plan should sync with the intents noted within the POCD.
- Bob offered to reach out to contact in Mansfield who led a project for a school developed to produce net zero emission – is there a possibility of doing something like that on an upcoming project in Simsbury (Latimer Lane)?
- Bob made note about energy production with relation to electric vehicles – added bullet on “Achieve 50%”.
- Mark made a motion to approve the 2021 Simsbury Energy Plan and present it to the BoE and BoS for approval; the motion was seconded by Bob seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Other business:

- N/A

Open forum:

- Bob circled back to climate emergency and waiting for an energy manager before making that declaration. Bob felt these two actions should be decoupled and we should follow back up. The task force shared Bob’s sentiment and emphasized the desire to go back to the BoS with the Declaration.
- Mark will attempt to move forward the climate emergency declaration.
- Bayard shared information about the EV show during SeptemberFeast.
- Bayard brought up the PURA EV Charging Program to incentivize charging stations for specific program areas– Mark shared the document.
- Amy brought up the EV show could also demo e-bikes, their utility, and available incentives. Additionally, the group mentioned electric lawn mowers could be included as well.

Adjournment:

- Bob moved to adjourn; Amy seconded the motion. Passes unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.