



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Clean Energy Task Force & Sustainable Team Joint Committee Meeting Minutes November 10, 2021 Conducted via Zoom

Mark Scully, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

Mark Scully, Joe Daly, Ray Harris, Bob Crowther, Eric Wellman, Tom Roy, Tim Walczak, and Elizabeth McGee (Sustainable CT Equity Coach) were present

- 1) No public audience
- 2) Elizabeth McGee, Sustainable CT Equity Coach will be joining today's meeting. Introduction: Elizabeth has coached not-for-profits, universities, and municipalities on issues related to issues of homelessness, education access, immigration, among others, and led an applied research project that explored inclusive community engagement strategies within municipalities.
- 3) Approval of October 13, 2021 Minutes
 - Bob made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2021 meeting. It was seconded by Tim and all agreed.
- 4) Merging of CETF and Sustainability Committee
 - There is overlap between these two town committees, both in goals and members. There are three members on both committees.
 - Several neighboring towns have combined such committees into one.
 - Eric discussed the BOS will be reviewing all town committees shortly to make any changes towards a more efficient committee structure. There are many committees and some are dormant. There's a possibility the CETF could be rolled into the Sustainability Committee. The "sustainability" name will carry more clout; particularly with economic development. Eric hopes to become the BOS liaison for this topic.
- 5) Discussion with Elizabeth McGee
 - Elizabeth is an equity coach resource from Sustainable CT and is available to assist the town with projects. She can aid with how to utilize an "equity lens" and the

Sustainable CT Equity Toolkit to craft solutions with equity in mind.

https://sustainablect.org/fileadmin/Random_PDF_Files/Files_and_Resources/SustainableCT_EquityToolkit_January2019.pdf

- Sustainable CT added coaches to assist with the equity topic as towns were struggling with this. These coaches are not part of the certification process but are in place to assist towns craft equitable solutions.
- Elizabeth discussed the five step Equity Toolkit noting that it's best to build equity through community involvement.
- Elizabeth noted that equity coaches can work with town committees and the subject of equity can tie committees together. Eric discussed the possible equity connection between the Sustainability and Economic Development committees.
- The group reviewed the MLK Memorial and Rainbow Crosswalk in regards to Sustainable CT certification.
- Elizabeth mentioned it's important to answer all questions with equity in mind.

6) Other business

- Jess Leclair from Sustainable CT informed Mark that Sustainable CT has partnered with the Nature Conservancy to offer complimentary Community Resilience Building Workshops to communities across the state. By participating in a Community Resilience Building (CRB) Workshop your city or town will satisfy the requirements for two Sustainable CT actions: Assess Climate Vulnerability and Implement Your Own Sustainability Action (for undertaking community resilience planning). Additional information and registration process can be found at : <https://sustainablect.org/no-cost-assistance-programs/the-nature-conservancy/>
- Progress of Pollinator Pathways briefly discussed
- CETF discussed the pending town energy plan which is tied to the town budget and climate emergency resolution. The energy plan is to be discussed at the January 10th BOS meeting. BOE discussion date is pending.
- Latimer Lane school renovation and expansion; Mark spoke at the Public Building Committee meeting in regards to achieving a net-zero and electric only building. There was a discussion about such projects at Mansfield and Manchester schools. The architects are to present on December 14th to the BOE.
- Eversource and UI offering grants to towns for construction of renewable energy sources.

7) Adjournment

- At 7:50pm, Tim made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bob. All agreed and motion carried.