



Town of Simsbury

66 TOWN FOREST ROAD, SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070
Phone (860) 658-3222 Fax (860) 408-5416 E-mail troy@simsbury-ct.gov

Report of Meeting

Town of Simsbury Clean Energy Task Force

August 17, 2020

6:30 pm – Zoom Meeting

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:48 pm.

Roll Call - Quorum:

Present were: Tom Roy, Cheri Calnan, Ray Harris, Mark Scully, Tim Walczak, Bob Beinstein and Mike Tanca.

1) Public Audience:

Members of Citizens Climate Lobby – Susan Olson, Neil Gundel, Ron Brandes, Roger Kuhns, Jon Olson and Phil Huerter. Students - Olivia Birney (SHS) and Mattie McCann (Loomis Chafee)

2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 20, 2020

Mark had two amendments to the meeting minutes. The date of “December 16, 2019” should be “July 20, 2020”. Also Item 6, third bullet “solicing” should be “soliciting”. Mark made a motion to accept the minutes, as amended. The motion was seconded by Tim and was passed by a voice vote.

5) Discussions Raised at July Public Audience – see CCL presentation

Bob Beinstein asked if we could modify the agenda to allow for the Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) to lead a discussion on their charter and give a short presentation. Tim made the motion and Mike seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a voice vote.

The CCL began in 2007 with 19 members and now have 200,000 members. They have a powerful tool called En-Roads that can forecast global temperature rise versus time based on global policies and various parameters. The program indicated that there will be a 4 C temperature rise based on the status quo. The program also indicated that there is not one parameter alone that will significantly lower the rate of global warming. A combination of many parameters are required.

Increasing the carbon tax has the greatest effect could lower the temperature rise by 1.5 C. There is a bill in the House now, HR 763, which would attempt to limit global warming with a carbon tax. This bill may be voted on in 2021.

CCL asked if the CETF would support this bill and try to get Simsbury to back the bill. If towns back the bill, our congress representatives to vote for the bill. The CETF will further investigate and discuss this bill at future meetings.

3) Update on Sustainable CT

Mike read and showed on the screen the draft Sustainable CT meeting minutes from July 2020. The highlights are as follows:

- Tom Roy said that the town is doing a high-efficiency lighting retrofit at the town hall, skating rink, tennis courts and library. The retrofit is funded by Eversource with savings. No out-of-pocket cost to Simsbury. Sarah Cramer mentioned that also mentioned that another project was putting new lighting at the Simsbury Farms driveway and parking lot.
- Sarah also stated that the Simsbury Parks & Open Space Master Plan is almost final. A draft meeting will occur this week. The plan is scheduled to go in front of the Board of Selectmen in the near future.
- Mark Scully said that the Clean Energy Task Force has not met since February. We did look into purchasing an electric school bus, using the VW settlement fund money. We contacted the Board of Education to see if they wanted to participate. They did not want to pursue this at this time.
- Mark stated that the CETF may want to dust off a previous proposal to develop a 1 MW solar on our landfill. We did not qualify 2 years ago but the rules for qualification have changed.
- Bob Crowther said that the Economic Development Commission has been monitoring the Payroll Protection Program, learning how businesses have applied for funding and other matters. All companies applying for funding were successful. The Simsbury Main Street Partnership Program and Simsbury Chamber of Commerce are working closely with the small businesses in town to help them through this crisis.
- Mary Turner said that they are developing a plan to reopen the swap shop. There are age and health issues with many of the volunteers.
- Mary said that the Fill-It program has stalled due to Covid. Two filling location partners have dropped out because they don't want to handle water bottles.
- Tom Roy asked if we should consider a long term, water usage plan. He said that Aquarion stated the latest months were about 4 times the average, due to the hot, dry weather. Tariffville was using about 4 million gal/month. He recommends getting Aquarion, Avon Water, and Tariffville Water Commission as part of this committee. Cheri Calnan has been contacted by one Westminster student and one SHS student for a sustainability collaboration. We should get SHS, Westminster, Master, St

Mary's and Ethel Walker together. Tim Walczak said that he would volunteer as a liason to the students.

4) Update on Energy Plan outreach – nothing to report

6) Presentation of Updated Town Energy Benchmarking – Tom Roy will give a status at the next CETF meeting

7) Plans for Remainder of 2020

- a. Residential Efficiency Campaign – Mark said that PACE is doing a seminar on August 28th at 10 am to discuss and energy solutions audit
- b. Shared solar proposal – Mark said that we may be able to dust off the Ameresco proposal for solar at the land fill as a basis for a new proposal. We just missed the July deadline for the last round submittal so we have a year to submit a revised proposal. We can discuss at the next meeting.
- c. School solar RFP – Nothing reported
- d. Other ideas - none

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is September 21, 2020

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mike and was seconded by Cheri to end this meeting. The motion was passed by a voice vote. The meeting ended at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully,
Mike Tanca