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Cc:

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## CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE MINUTES

March 30, 2011

### REGULAR MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chairman Boeshans in the main meeting room of Simsbury Town Hall, with the following members present: Jim Ray, Susan Van Kleef, Bob Beinstein, Al Weisbrich and Patrick Boeshans.

#### 1. PUBLIC AUDIENCE

With several in attendance, Chairman Boeshans deferred the Review and Approval of prior minutes to open the floor for public discussion. Resident Paul Horowitz, Tom Roy, Simsbury Director of Public Works, Burke LaClair, Simsbury Schools Assistant Business Manager, Resident Keith Epstein and his son, Jonathan, were present at the meeting. Jonathan is a Boy Scout from Troop 175 working toward his Eagle Scout award and needed to attend a public meeting as part of his requirements.

A general discussion was held with various CETF members and Jonathan about clean energy and energy conservation, some of the issues, activity that is currently on-going within his school and his understanding and thoughts about these. The intent was to help him understand the purpose of the CETF, the current activities and the general aspects of the energy environment.

Tom Roy had several items for discussion. First was to discuss the town's shared energy manager where we are part of the regional grant basis for utilization of their services up to \$50,000. It was agreed that it would be good to invite a representative from the energy manager firm to come to a future CETF meeting where a general discussion of some possible initiatives and projects could be shared. Mr. Roy will arrange for their attendance at a future meeting. Second was the issue in regard to establishing a special revenue fund with the Board of Finance so CETF grant funds could be held and disbursed. This had been tabled at a BOF meeting in January and with the current town budget process, it has been difficult to get it back on their schedule. Chairman Boeshans indicated that he had information that it might be added to the BOF agenda for their meeting on April 5th and he was seeking confirmation. A third item was a proposal

the town was considering as part of a regional initiative to provide marketing support for Direct Energy to Simsbury residents. Copies of the proposal was provided to the CETF members to review. A general discussion was held noting that Direct Energy was only one of several electrical suppliers that residents could currently choose and the town could be questioned as to why it had chosen this one as others have offered to do similar type deals to towns/organizations, e.g. Viridian has offered to do a similar program with the Town. It was noted that all of the alternative electrical suppliers are not mandated by the state to be subject to audit as to their statements in regard to their clean energy mix and also they can choose to use clean energy sources outside of the Northeast. The only two approved clean energy sources by the state are Sterling Planet and Community Energy who are required to have a certain amount of clean energy produced in the Northeast as well are auditable as to their suppliers. The Clean Energy option can be taken in addition to any alternate electric supplier, so that part of the proposal is not different from any of the others. As stated in the proposal, the town would effectively be endorsing Direct Energy in two direct mailings to residents whereas the town has not done the same for the clean energy suppliers even though the town committed to the clean energy challenge. Commissioner Van Kleef made a motion to endorse the proposal as provided which was seconded by Commissioner Weisbrich. A vote was taken in which it was unanimous to not endorse the proposal. It was noted that the CETF vote was based on its role to support clean energy and that the Board of Selectmen would need to address the merits of the proposal as to the benefits to its citizens and to the town. Burke LaClair indicated that Tom Roy had been in discussion with him about the CETF and he was interested in finding out more information at this time. A general discussion was held in regard to the CETF efforts and its specific initiatives with Simsbury schools. It was noted that one of the grant proposals done by CETF had included funding specifically for aiding education initiatives and the first one had been completed with providing solar cell kits to be used by the 5th grade science teachers which also included development of the curricula and training for the teachers. Another initiative is being planned with Henry James school with the first step to invite the teacher(s) to a meeting to discuss their energy related program and what CETF could do to help them. It was further noted that Simsbury High School environmental club had been awarded one of the Community Energy grants by CETF and currently were conducting their program aimed at getting further residential sign-ups for the Clean Energy option. Mr. LaClair indicated that the Board of Education had just signed a new electrical supplier contract which was part of the consortia of school districts and it had a new provision about a guarantee for some portion of clean energy. He will get further information on this to determine if it can help in the clean energy requirements. Since one of the requirements for installation of the solar panels that would awarded (if the town completed its clean energy commitment with through purchase of energy

credits or their own generation) would be an energy audit of the building where they would be used, this could be one of the efforts considered for the shared energy manager as the use of schools would be a priority for its location. It was questioned as to who paid the installation costs and it was explained that was part of the overall award. It was also questioned if they had to all be used on one location and the answer is that multiple locations could be chosen. When Tom Roy is able to schedule the shared energy manager discussion, he will also invite Mr. LaClair. Chairman Boeshans closed the Public Audience.

## 2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING ON MARCH 16, 2011

The draft minutes from the March 16th meeting were reviewed by all. Commissioner Van Kleef made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Ray seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

## 3. REVIEW OF ACTIONABLE ITEMS

Chairman Boeshans provided copies of the revised Green Business marketing and criteria sheets updated to address comments from the last meeting. Further review comments were made for some further changes and Commissioner Beinstein will update them for the next meeting. With the criteria now agreed, Commissioner Ray will update the example sheet to go along with these and provide prior to the next meeting for review.

It was also determined that an initial meeting can be set up with Henry James Middle School to share information in regard to their Green program. This can only be to determine some potentials for a future initiative as no commitment of funds can be provided. Commissioner Van Kleef will work with Commissioner Beinstein to set this up.

The Simsbury Volunteer Expo is set for April 28th at Eno Hall. CETF will have a table again.

## 4. IDENTIFICATION OF NEW ACTIONABLE ITEMS

No new action items were discussed.

## 5. OPEN FORUM

Commissioner Weisbrich announced that he would be tendering his resignation as he was moving to Vermont. All members wished him luck and thanked him for his service since the initiation of the CETF.

## 6. NEXT MEETING/FUTURE MEETINGS CALENDAR

The next scheduled meeting is April 13th.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Weisbrich motioned to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:40 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Van Kleef and unanimously

approved.