

From: Susan Mazurski                      October 8, 2010 1:33:01 PM  
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Cc:

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#### CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE MINUTES

October 4, 2010

#### REGULAR MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Chairman Boeshans in the Board of Education Conference Room of Simsbury Town Hall, with the following members present: Patrick Boeshans, Jim Ray, Susan Van Kleef, and Al Weisbrich.

#### 1. PRE -MEETING DISCUSSION

Chairman Boeshans indicated that he had received a Community Innovations Grant proposal from Simsbury First Church of Christ and had also been notified of the intent by the Simsbury High School Enviro Club that it would also be submitting a proposal. Since the original grant period had expired with no proposals submitted, it had been discussed in prior meetings to reopen it formally, but that had not yet been done, with the submittal of one proposal and the indication that another one was on the way, Chairman Boeshans made a motion to reopen the Grant program and consider any new proposals in the order received. Commissioner Weisbrich seconded the motion. Chairman Boeshans called for a vote and it was passed unanimously. Due to the fact that representatives from Simsbury First Church were in attendance to discuss their proposal, Chairman Boeshans made a motion to open the Public Audience session first. Commissioner Van Kleef seconded the motion. Chairman Boeshans called for a vote and it was passed unanimously.

#### 2. PUBLIC AUDIENCE

In attendance were Steve and Tina Osborn representing Simsbury First Church of Christ and Deputy First Selectman John Hampton.

The Osborn's were requested to go over their grant proposal for clear understanding and for any questions from the members of the CETF. It was indicated that this was a work party for global sustainability as part of the global 10/10/10 events that are being promoted by 350.org. 350.org is an organization promoting action to reduce carbon emissions and other green initiatives with their name coming from 350 part per million of CO<sub>2</sub> which is the level that scientists state that needs to be sustained or less to

reduce the impact on the climate. Steve Osborn indicated that his son, Jeremy, is a member of the 350.org team so their family takes special interest to foster the work he is doing. Details of the workday to be held at the Simsbury Farms Apple Barn include: a. A bike donation to be used for Simsbury's new bike sharing program. b. Work on installing energy efficient windows and green friendly landscaping for two of the town-owned houses that are part of their affordable program. c. Trade in of incandescent bulbs for energy saving CFL's. d. Connecticut Clean Energy options sign-ups. e. Display of a solar powered car and displays about the roof-top photovoltaic solar panel installation from Nevin Christensen's Flamig Farm. Also there will be free pizza donated by the American Flatbread Co. and free apples and cider.

A general discussion and question session was held to discuss each portion of the grant including a line item review of the proposed expenses that make up the actual grant basis. It was emphasized that the basis of the grant program was to promote Clean Energy sign-ups and Steve Osborn indicated that he had commitments for at least four adults to actively be soliciting sign-ups and this number could be increased with further volunteers including youth. Part of the line item expense was for banners for advertising the event and it was indicated that these also needed to key out the Clean Energy aspect. Steve Osborn discussed suggested wording and indicated that he would send a graphic of the banner design to the CETF for approval prior to getting them made.

It was also noted that the CETF had previously determined that the maximum grant to be made under this program would be \$1,000. As the grant proposal was for \$1,250, it was discussed as to what could be changed or modified. The amount identified from shrubs and trees was the highest value and the one that was not as directly related to clean energy. Steve Osborn indicated that plants in general were part of the overall green and clean basis with CO2

reduction and also cooling effects. However, it was the people who would be coming to do the work that would also be a good audience for Clean Energy sign-ups as they already supported such worthy causes. As such, it was suggested by the CETF to work within a \$1,000 limitation for the grant and to adjust their actual expenditures within their defined categories with the CETF suggestion that a lesser amount could still be spent for the trees and shrubs.

With the basic understanding and details of the grant proposal, Chairman Boeshans made a motion to close the Public Audience session. Commissioner Weisbrich seconded the motion. Chairman Boeshans called for a vote and it was passed unanimously.

### 3. GRANT PROPOSAL CONSIDERATION

Commissioner Ray made a motion to accept the grant proposal with a value of \$1,000. Commissioner Weisbrich seconded the motion. Chairman Boeshans called for a vote and it was passed unanimously.

The CETF thanked the Osborn's for their efforts as this type of proposal was the type that would help get further sign-ups and help promote the Clean Energy program. It was also agreed that members of the CETF would attend and do some training for the volunteers who would be doing the sign-ups. Commissioner Ray also indicated that he would contact Jim Iacovelli of Community Energy to participate also. First Deputy Selectman Hampton indicated this was good for the Town of Simsbury and appreciated the efforts from First Church.

#### 4. APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed by all and Chairman Boeshans requested a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 15th, 2010. Commissioner Weisbrich made the motion to approve the minutes with changes. Commissioner Van Kleef seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

#### 5. REVIEW OF ACTIONABLE ITEMS

Chairman Boeshans indicated that the press release for the alternative energy module to be done with the Simsbury elementary science curriculum had not yet been released as he had not received verification that the grant funds from Aquarion had been received. Commissioner Ray indicated that the night where Aquarion had presented the large facsimile check in the ceremony, they also had provided a check in an envelope to the First Selectman Mary Glassman. Chairman Boeshans indicated he now remembered that and would release the press release. Deputy First Selectman Hampton indicated that he would verify where the funds are being kept as well as the status of each of the remaining payments that Aquarion had committed.

Commissioner Van Kleef indicated that she had not had any success in getting some pictures of the children actually using the alternative energy kits for publicity. It was indicated that the School Superintendent Diane Ullman had already indicated that she would help. Commissioner Van Kleef will follow up.

Commissioner Van Kleef indicated that in discussion about the town website, a couple of alternatives were identified for the CETF pages as [www.townofsimsbury.com/cleanenergy](http://www.townofsimsbury.com/cleanenergy) and/or [www.townofsimsbury.com/greenbusiness](http://www.townofsimsbury.com/greenbusiness). It was questioned whether a 'green button' could be added to the home page which would also take them directly to the CETF pages. Deputy First Selectman Hampton felt that was possible so Commissioner Van Kleef will pursue that also. Commissioner Van Kleef will find out the source software the town uses for the updates as well as determine the possibility of the CETF handling the updates directly. When the Green Business program is in place and has certified businesses, it was discussed whether a green business type card could be used or a link to their website or other means. It was suggested that other town sites such as West Hartford and New Haven also be reviewed to see how they are handling their green programs. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Commissioner Beinstein had sent out the Green Business criteria to be vetted by some of his contacts in the green business field. Chairman Boeshans will follow up with him as to its status. Commissioner Van Kleef already has costs from two sources for the Green Business decals which will be ready to go when we formally release the program. Chairman Boeshans will also contact Main Street Partnership and Commissioner Ray will contact the Chamber of Commerce to set up 'launch events/publicity at that time. Chairman Boeshans indicated that Commissioner Fernand had indicated her intention to resign from the CETF, but had not yet provided a letter of resignation. He would follow up with her accordingly. Also he had not received the information about the CETF sign she had worked on so it can be finalized.

A general discussion about the now upcoming 10/10/10 event was held. Chairman Boeshans and Commissioners Ray and Van Kleef will attend. Commissioner Van Kleef has the CETF banner and will bring that. Commissioner Ray will contact Jim Iacovelli of Community Energy to come and if not able, ask for an electronic copy of the sign up forms to be used.

#### 6. IDENTIFICATION OF NEW ACTIONABLE ITEMS

No additional new action items were added over those discussed above.

#### 7. OPEN FORUM

Commissioner Van Kleef provided a copy of an article about a solar farm project done in the town of Greenfield, MA. The project was an agreement with a company, Axio Green, whereby they will install solar voltaic panels on the town's capped landfill with an agreement to sell power to the town as a substantially reduced rate while selling the rest commercially. Deputy First Selectman Hampton did not believe that Simsbury's landfill had been 'capped' but it would be something to investigate with DPW Director, Tom Roy.

#### 8. NEXT MEETING/FUTURE MEETINGS CALENDER

The next scheduled meeting is October 20th.

#### 9. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ray motioned to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weisbrich and unanimously approved.