

CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE MINUTES
SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
January 4, 2016
REGULAR MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Commissioner Beinstein in the Room 103 of Simsbury Town Hall, with the following members present: Bob Beinstein, Mark Scully, Jim Ray and Susan Van Kleef.

1. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING ON NOVEMBER 2nd, 2015:

The minutes from the meeting of November 2, 2015 were reviewed. Commissioner Van Kleef made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Scully seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

2. PUBLIC AUDIENCE:

Commissioner Beinstein opened the floor for public audience.

Ms. Ieke Scully and Mr. Will Scully were in attendance but they indicated that they were only there as observers and had nothing for discussion.

Selectman Mike Paine indicated that he still would be the Board of Selectman liaison for CETF and would not normally be attending meetings, but can come if requested. Commissioner Ray had the plaque from the Clean Energy Communities Program that had been presented to CETF at the last Board of Selectman's meeting to show the group. He provided it to Selectman Paine to have it hung up in Town Hall. Commissioner Scully informed Selectman Paine that the State's request for proposal for the demonstration Shared Solar community installation is due out soon, and a presentation that provides a general overview is being prepared to be presented at the next BOS meeting on January 11th. The purpose of the presentation will be to provide a head's up to the BOS about the program and to answer questions. It is expected that the response time required for the proposal will not be very long (possibly 30 days after receipt) and the more information up-front the better. Once the RFP is received and a strategy to reply is determined, a more specific presentation will be done for the BOS as an agreement to go ahead with the proposal from them will be necessary. Since this is a demonstration program, it is suspected that there will be many more proposals submitted than selected, but it is desirable that Simsbury be in the mix as a community that wishes to implement this type of installation. As a means to further understand the program and as preparatory to the planning for the proposal, Commissioner Scully introduced Mr. Ron Wedeking from Clean Energy Collective whose company has done these installations in other states where they have been previously fully approved for implementation by those respective state legislatures.

Mr. Wedeking gave an overview of his firm's past shared solar installations which has now included over 50 projects completed and about the same number ready to go pending final approvals within their respective areas. For the Connecticut shared solar demonstration program, the initial program will include installations in both the United Illuminating and the Eversource electrical utilities' areas in the state for a total of 6 MW of generated electricity from solar photovoltaic panels. For Simsbury, it was indicated that a 2MW installation would be appropriate. Due to life limitations for roof replacements, it would be recommended that a ground mount system be installed which would not have that limitation. It is expected a system this size would take a space of 20 to 30 acres to provide for the installation plus line of sight access for the best solar efficiency and screening to make the site unobtrusive to the public. It was noted that the site still could have public access for hiking, educational programs and perhaps native plants to be a habitat for birds, bees and other wildlife. The facility installation would be owned by the developer, Clean Energy Collective if they were chosen, but there would be substantial positive aspects for the purchasers of shares and the town - assuming town owned land. In the case of the purchaser, they would be eligible for tax credits plus the offset to their utility bills for the solar generated electricity. The offset would be on their utility bill just like the separate entries now for the clean energy option program or a different generation source (Mr. Wedeking indicated his company has developed software that calculates this information that can be provided directly to the utility for their use). For the town, there would be lease payments for use of the land (typically \$7.5k - \$10k per MW), real estate tax payments, and the cost savings for Simsbury users could potentially be spent within the town. It was noted that with the Simsbury Solarize program, the existing list of those who wanted solar but did not have the proper site due issues with roof not conducive or shade would be a natural initial contact source of possible interest in purchasing shares. It was also noted that a local installer, like C-TEC, could be used as part of the proposal. Some possible sites were discussed with the recognition that selection will need to be very careful to be in keeping with Simsbury's open space requirements and

54 the public's views. Commissioner Beinstein indicated that it would be good to utilize the Envision sustainable rating
55 system as either a guide or as a goal for certification during the proposal process as it addresses the community,
56 environmental and economic aspects that are desirable for Simsbury. Additional discussion was held on various
57 aspects of the program, but it was recognized that the requirements of the RFP will dictate how an actual proposal is
58 put together.

59 As no further business was brought forward, Commissioner Beinstein closed public audience.

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61 **3. BRIGHT IDEA GRANT UPDATE:**

62 Commissioner Ray indicated that Ms. Ali Jackman of Eversource Clean Energy Communities/Energy Efficiency
63 Program has confirmed that the insulation project for the town's low income houses is an acceptable project for use of
64 the Bright Idea grant. As a prerequisite for the submittal of the actual grant proposal, she provided an agreement that
65 must first be signed by First Selectman Lisa Heavner. That has been sent to her and Commissioner Ray will be
66 following up to be sure it is completed and sent back to the State. Mr. Tom Roy, Director of Public Works, has also
67 received bids from a second insulation contractor and will make a decision on which one to use for the effort and
68 likewise for the grant. Commissioner Ray is working with Mr. Roy to take care of this to get the full \$10,000 grant for
69 its use.

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71 **4. GREEN BUSINESS CHALLENGE PROGRAM/SMALL BUSINESS POWER DOWN PLANS/STATUS** 72 **DISCUSSION:**

73 Commissioner Van Kleef sent a follow up to Ms. Ali Jackman of Eversource Clean Energy Communities/Energy
74 Efficiency Program to get a status of planning for utilizing their Small Business Power Down Campaign for Simsbury.
75 As of this meeting, she has not yet heard back from Ms. Jackman.

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77 **5. CETF WEBSITE PLAN DISCUSSION:**

78 The town is updating its website. Commissioner Van Kleef will contact Mr. Rick Bazzano to get latest information in
79 regard to updating the CETF page(s).

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81 **6. 100% SIMSBURY PLAN DISCUSSION:**

82 Commissioner Scully has had continuing discussions with Eversource, Diana McCarthy-Bercury, with the first effort
83 in gathering energy usage data for Simsbury - first electricity and then natural gas. Simsbury has data for the number
84 of homes along with details like size in square feet and age. This data will subsequently be used to establish an
85 estimate of the current and projected energy usage. With the scope of this plan, this will be continuing for some time
86 to gather all the data needed and then to put together an overall action plan.

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88 **7. OPEN FORUM:**

89 Commissioner Scully indicated that he had been contacted by Mr. Steve Mitchell of Mitchell Auto Group in Simsbury.
90 They are installing an electric car recharging station and will invite CETF to participate when they have a ceremony
91 after completion.

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93 **8. NEXT MEETING**

94 The next regularly scheduled meeting is February 1, 2016.

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96 **9. ADJOURNMENT**

97 Commissioner Van Kleef motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner
98 Scully and unanimously approved.