

CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE MINUTES
SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
September 11, 2017
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: Jim Ray, Regina Pynn, Susan Van Kleef, Mark Scully, and Bob Beinstein.

1. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING ON JULY 25, 2017 AND AUGUST 14, 2017:

The minutes from the Aug 14th meeting were reviewed by all. Commissioner Pynn made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Van Kleef seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Amendments agreed are noted as follows:

- Amendment to page 1, line 25. Change "after an agreed to date" to "after a date"
- Amendment to page 1, line 25. Change "sent out to be reviewed" to "sent out for review"
- Amendment to page 1, line 46. Change "The schedule will require" to "The schedule requires"

The minutes from the July 25th meeting are being prepared by Commissioner Pynn and were not yet available for review.

2. PUBLIC AUDIENCE:

Commissioner Beinstein opened the floor for public audience.

Ms. Susan Masino indicated that the Simsbury Grange has been approved for up to \$14,000 for energy conservation of their building and job training through the Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA). The approval allows donations made to the Grange toward this effort by businesses will result in a direct reduction in their state business taxes. At the time the Grange received this approval, they were not aware that donation commitments must be received by October 1st, so they expect they will have to re-apply again next year in order to have enough time to secure donations. A general discussion was held as to potential business donors in the Simsbury community that would be likely supporters for such an effort. Since the NAA is designed to provide funding for municipal and tax exempt organizations, it may be something to investigate for future CETF and/or town programs.

Mr. Chuck Brody indicated that his company, Tumulow, specializes in reducing electricity costs for businesses using software management control of systems and battery energy storage systems. Since commercial users are charged for consumption and demand, by being able to lessen the peak demands allow an overall reduction in their electricity costs. Besides the peak demand shedding and the use of battery systems to maintain the needed power during which external power is shed, the company also is very much involved in data collection to understand what are the large electric users, their peak demands which collectively will allow information for tailoring their usage and/or improve their efficiency to reduce their electrical demands. One of their products is called a 'tile' that collects the data at a given electrical point/panel with a Verizon simcard that then transmits the data to a cloud based server for storage and analysis. A typical tile costs around \$600 with a \$100 per month data charge. As such, these may be of interest to businesses in Simsbury and possibly the Town of Simsbury also. Commissioner Scully indicated that a pilot effort with the tiles may be able to be funded through the CETF Bright Idea program for selected local businesses. Mr. Tom Roy, Simsbury Director of Public Works, indicated that the large Town, the Town Hall and the Water Pollution Control facility, may also be candidates for use of the tiles. Mr. Brody will provide further information to Commissioner Scully and Mr. Roy for consideration.

Mr. Roy indicated that the Connecticut Siting Council will be doing a field review of the proposed site for the Tobacco Valley Solar project followed by an evidentiary hearing and then a public session on September 12th. Several members of the CETF plan try to attend.

Mr. Roy indicated he still is trying to work out a date with Simsbury Schools for the dedication of the high school solar panels. There was an initial problem with the system operation which required follow-up with the installer to resolve. There is still a plan to add a web portal for access to the solar electrical generation data as well as a screen in the lobby for viewing current electrical generation status.

Mr. Roy indicated that he is working with Lodestar Energy LLC and Asante Energy in regard to power purchase agreements for solar installations at the Simsbury Farms skating rink and at the Public Works facility.

54 Mr. Roy indicated that in discussions with Mr. Burke LaClair, Simsbury School District Business Manager in regard to
55 including the high school in a possible Town microgrid indicated that he did not feel it was needed since the school
56 had two large generators for emergency power. Commissioner Scully indicated that the plans for a Simsbury
57 microgrid were still in the process of being developed with grant funding that had been obtained.
58 With no other comments or discussion for the public record, the public audience closed.
59

60 **3. BRIGHT IDEA GRANT - DISCUSSION OF PLANS FOR SECOND GRANT:**

61 With prior discussions of possible uses along with a potential use with the 'tiles' discussed during the Public Audience,
62 no additional discussions were held at this meeting. To be discussed further at the next meeting.
63

64 **4. HIGH SCHOOL SOLAR DEDICATION DISCUSSION:**

65 This was discussed during the Public Audience.
66

67 **5. SMALL BUSINESS ENERGY ADVANTAGE PLANS/STATUS DISCUSSION:**

68 With Commissioner Butler's resignation, Commissioner Pynn has agreed to take over this program. She indicated that
69 she has set up a meeting with Mr. Butler to review the program and will report at the next meeting.
70

71 **6. 100% SIMSBURY PLAN:**

72 Commissioner Scully had nothing further to report as the main effort now is related to putting together a microgrid
73 proposal.
74

75 **7: DEEP WATER WIND SOLAR FARM DISCUSSION:**

76 No discussion but members of CETF will attend the session on September 12th.
77

78 **8. OPEN FORUM:**

79 Commissioner Van Kleef had contacted Mr. Ed LaMontagne, Executive Director of the Simsbury Housing Authority,
80 in regard to a possible solar installation at the Virginia Connolly residential complex. Mr. LaMontagne indicated that
81 they had been contacted by Grid Alternatives, who in concert with the Connecticut Green Bank, is looking at installing
82 solar systems for housing authorities in Connecticut. He indicated that an initial issue was that Eversource considered
83 the complex a commercial property versus residential when determining electrical rates which has an adverse impact
84 on the cost savings utilizing solar. A meeting has been set up with Eversource to discuss and they will be discussing
85 further to understand the aspects of a Power Purchase Agreement. So the process is continuing at the present.
86 Commissioner Ray had contacted Ms. Susan Pribyson, Executive Director of Gifts of Love and Community Farm of
87 Simsbury, in regard to the status of their solar installation at the farm. She indicated that it is now operational and
88 there will be a dedication ceremony set up this fall and she will keep us informed.
89

90 **9. NEXT MEETING:**

91 The next regularly scheduled meeting is October 10th.
92

93 **10. ADJOURNMENT:**

94 Commissioner Van Kleef motioned to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by
95 Commissioner Pynn and unanimously approved.