

CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE MINUTES
SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
February 1, 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, Jim Ray, Mark Scully and Melissa Osborne.

1. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING ON JANUARY 4th, 2016:

The minutes from the January meeting were reviewed by all. Commissioner Scully made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Osborne seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

- Amendment to page 2, line 54. Change phrase 'Envision sustainable rating' to 'Envision infrastructure sustainability rating.'

2. PUBLIC AUDIENCE:

Commissioner Beinstein opened the floor for public audience.

Ms. Ali Jackman, from the Eversource Clean Energy Communities/Energy Efficiency program presented details for a business outreach program in Simsbury. Ms. Jackman provided a handout covering the basic steps to be taken, what offerings are available under the Small Business Energy Advantage Program, a list of State approved energy conservation vendors who can be contacted to participate, and a draft Business Energy Savings Initiative Plan that Simsbury would need to finalize and formally agree. This program can be made available to all businesses in Simsbury and there are no costs associated with an energy conservation assessment that would be done by a selected vendor. If a business chose to make energy related changes, there is on-bill financing available through Eversource. The businesses would also be eligible for other State and Federal tax incentives related to the energy conservation aspects subsequently done. Ms. Jackman indicated other organizations should be contacted to get their agreement as well as help promote the program. These should consider the Board of Selectmen, the Chamber of Commerce, the Main Street Partnership, the Economic Development Commission, the Rotary Club, etc. It is typically a 12 month program and would include multiple workshops/meetings and perhaps webinars and other media avenues where the businesses could both learn more and ask their specific questions. Eversource will participate in and create marketing materials, but other local sources such as Simsbury Community TV and local newspapers and town public media should also be included. Ms. Jackman was requested to provide a listing of the types of things that are done during the energy conservation assessments that could be used to discuss with businesses. It was discussed that it would be good to get a few businesses involved up front to have the assessments done so they could be someone other businesses could contact as well as to be used in the promotional material.

Mr. Tom Roy, Simsbury Director of Public Works was also at the meeting and he was asked to give an update to Ms. Jackman on the first Bright Ideas grant (\$10,000) proposal. Mr. Roy indicated that the town had received two bids for the insulation work of the town owned residences but it was found out that some of the residences already had some level of insulation so the proposal would need to be revised accordingly. Once this is complete, the grant proposal will be completed and formally sent in. Ms. Jackman indicated that the effort does meet the criteria for the use of the Bright Ideas grant funds, so it should be approved quickly. She also indicated that Simsbury has also already earned a second Bright Ideas grant (\$10,000), but the first one will need to be accomplished first before that one can be done. Ms. Jackman asked Mr. Roy about the Simsbury benchmarking data that is needed for the town buildings. Mr. Roy indicated that Simsbury uses a third party program to track all the energy data but it easily can be converted into a format that uses the Portfolio Manager program that the State uses. Ms. Jackman indicated that is not necessary as long as the data is taken for one year to be able to establish a benchmark for the town.

Ms. Jackman indicated that for the schools, there is also the 'eesmarts' program which is an energy education learning initiative. The website, <http://www.eesmarts.com>, provides all information about the programs including materials, workshops (includes stipends for teachers attending) and lesson plans.

Mr. Roy indicated that the request for quote for the Simsbury shared solar proposal has been released and initial interest from several firms has been received. One requested extra time to respond and with the delay in the State's formal request, that will present no issue so an addendum will be done to extend the time to Feb 15th. Once formal responses are received, Mr. Roy will contact CETF for support in reviewing the responses. As part of the process,

54 some of the firms went to the landfill site to review its feasibility and it was felt that there is plenty of room, good solar
55 access, and three phase power close by due to an adjacent pumping station. Issues to be resolved with the site would
56 be the fact that part of it is a wetland area and also any glare/reflections will need to be addressed due to the proximity
57 to the Simsbury airport.

58 Commissioner Ray asked Mr. Roy the status of the solar panel installation at the high school. Mr. Roy indicated that
59 he still is waiting on the necessary actions to be taken by the schools for the engineering assessment and the conduit
60 installation. Mr. Roy has followed up with Mr. Burke LaClair, Simsbury Schools Business Manager, to get an update.
61 Mr. Roy indicated that he had met with Eversource in regard to their pricing for the purchase of the streetlights that are
62 being considered for retrofit for LED bulbs. They previously had given prices that were much higher than other towns
63 had paid and this meeting did not resolve that issue. So he still is waiting for their basis of the price plus updated cost
64 data.

65 Mr. Roy indicated that he should soon have a new employee to help with all the energy related projects. One that is
66 coming up in mid February that would be a good start is for State grant for an electric vehicle charging station.

67 Mr. Mike Paine, Simsbury Board of Selectman, was also at the meeting and joined in several of the discussions and
68 indicated that CETF should get Board of Selectman approval for small business initiative when it is finalized as well as
69 the shared solar proposal once it is completed.

70 Mr. Will Scully was in attendance and volunteered to help in the initial screening process for possible energy
71 conservation assessment firms to determine their interest. Mr. Scully will work with Commissioner Scully in this
72 regard.

73 With no further discussions brought forward, Commissioner Beinstein closed the public audience.

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

76 Mr. Roy had provided an update for this effort during the Public Audience.

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78 **4. GREEN BUSINESS CHALLENGE PROGRAM/SMALL BUSINESS POWER DOWN PLANS/STATUS** 79 **DISCUSSION:**

80 An overall discussion was held during the Public Audience for this effort.

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

83 Commissioner Van Kleef was absent so no update was available.

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85 **6. 100% SIMSBURY PLAN DISCUSSION:**

86 Commissioner Scully indicated that this was still in the early stages of discussion. West Hartford is working on a
87 similar effort and he is in touch with them to share ideas.

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89 **7. OPEN FORUM:**

90 No additional items were brought up for open discussion.

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92 **8. NEXT MEETING**

93 The next regularly scheduled meeting is March 7th.

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95 **9. ADJOURNMENT**

96 Commissioner Scully motioned to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by
97 Commissioner Osborne and unanimously approved.