

CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE MINUTES
SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
March 7, 2016
REGULAR MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 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 Susan Van Kleef.

1. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING ON FEBRUARY 1st, 2016:

The minutes from the February meeting were reviewed by all. Commissioner Scully made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Van Kleef seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

2. PUBLIC AUDIENCE:

Commissioner Beinstein opened the floor for public audience.

Mr. Paul Horowitz was in attendance and had been following the recent activity with CETF through the minutes. He did not have any specific questions, but just wanted to keep up to date and perhaps offer some information as he is an consultant in the energy field.

At the last meeting, Mr. Will Scully had volunteered to help with the initial screening process for possible energy conservation assessment firms from the State approved list. Mr. Scully updated the CETF at this meeting indicating that he had contacted the nearest firms geographically to Simsbury as a first effort. Not all firms had responded, but he will be compiling a list for consideration based on the responses received to be reviewed at a future meeting. With no further discussions brought forward, Commissioner Beinstein closed the public audience.

3. BRIGHT IDEA GRANT UPDATE:

Commissioner Ray indicated that a revised estimate is being done for the insulation of the town owned residences due to some already having some insulation added previously. The initial estimate is that the costs will be reduced to a level much closer to the \$10,000 grant amount so not much additional funds will be needed. Mr. Tom Roy, Simsbury Director of Public Works has requested a formal updated bid that he will then use to finalize the required paperwork for the grant.

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

The initial effort is related to the identification of the energy conservation assessment firm that CETF will work with in this effort. Current status was discussed as part of the Public Audience. Contacts will then need to be made with the Chamber of Commerce, Main Street Partnership, Rotary Club, etc to get them both involved and as an active supporter. Also, similar to the Solar Ambassadors that were used during the Solarize Simsbury Campaign, some firms in Simsbury will need to be identified that can help in that regard. Commissioner Ray indicated that Mr. David Bordonaro, President of McLean, had shown interest in the initial Green Business Challenge effort and already was doing considerable energy conservation efforts with the McLean properties, so he might be a good starting point.

5. CETF WEBSITE PLAN DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Van Kleef indicated that the Town had just updated their overall website so she will need to get with Mr. Rick Bazzano, Simsbury Computer Manager, to discuss the new website, how to now get access and how to make updates.

6. 100% SIMSBURY PLAN DISCUSSION/SHARED SOLAR DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Scully indicated that he had just met with First Selectman, Lisa Heavner, to bring her up to date on the 100% plan. She had indicated that CETF should also review the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development as how it will tie into that. Commissioner Scully indicated that he has continued to work with Ms. Ali Jackman from the Eversource Clean Energy Communities/Energy Efficiency program as well as West Hartford which is doing a similar plan. In conjunction with West Hartford, a couple of Yale University students are conducting a solar potential data analysis for the residences/businesses. C-Tec had done some similar type analysis as part of the Solarize Simsbury campaign, so Commissioner Scully will contact them to see if they have available data that could be used. Besides

solar potential analysis, subsequent analysis will review demand/response data, potential changes in building codes/ordinances, heat pumps, electric vehicles, etc. If determined that the data gathering effort will need further analysis for Simsbury, Commissioner Scully indicated that we may wish to consider the use of a summer intern like was done for Solarize Simsbury. Commissioner Ray indicated that CETF has sufficient funds to pay for an intern if that is subsequently determined to be a worthwhile endeavor. Commissioner Scully and Commissioner Beinstein indicated that the Town had received six proposals in response to the request for qualifications for the Community Shared Solar Pilot Project which currently are under evaluation. The selected contractor shall work with the Town in preparing a response to the anticipated Connecticut DEEP request for proposal (RFP) for the Shared Clean Energy Facility Pilot Program. Although this RFP had been originally expected after the start of the new year, it continues to be delayed but still is expected in the next couple of months. The location of a shared solar system is the Town land around the landfill.

7. OPEN FORUM:

Commissioner Scully indicated that Ms. Jackman had provided him a packet in regards to the State's 'eesmarts' program. This is primarily for the educators and in review of the material, the activities were already too late for this school year so will need to be reviewed again in the fall for the new school year for applicability. Commissioner Van Kleef indicated that there are courses offered for the teachers typically in the summer. The schools should be getting the information directly so no specific effort is probably needed by CETF.

A general discussion was held about the Deepwater Wind LLC proposal to build a solar farm in Simsbury. Their proposal was in response to a New England consortia (which includes the respective state energy associations from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island along with energy producing commercial entities operating in their states) request for proposal. Deepwater's proposal was reiterated as a project that would be the largest solar facility in New England which they would use to sell energy and renewable energy credits (REC's). The project is a new 26.4 MW-AC solar power generating facility located on 153 acres of previously undeveloped land in Simsbury, CT, adjacent to CL&P's existing 115 kV Northeast Simsbury substation along Hopmeadow Street in the North end. At this time, their proposal is just one of several received in response to this RFP and no decision has been made. Since the proposal is at the State level, approval of the proposal and site are not subject to Simsbury's approval although if approved, Simsbury would work with them to try to provide for set back from the road and screening of the actual solar collectors' installation from the road.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting is April 4th.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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