

CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE MINUTES
SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
January 9, 2017
REGULAR MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Commissioner Beinstein in the Main Conference Room of Simsbury Town Hall, with the following members present: Jim Ray, Mark Scully, Susan Van Kleef, Bill Butler and Bob Beinstein. As this was Commissioner Butler's first meeting since he was formally appointed by the Simsbury Board of Selectman, he was readily welcomed by all other members.

1. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING ON DECEMBER 5th, 2016:

The minutes from the December 5th meeting were reviewed by all. Commissioner Beinstein made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Butler seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Amendments agreed are noted as follows:

- Amendment to page 1, line 10. Change "was" to "were".
- Amendment to page 1, line 25. Change "out to" to "out by".
- Amendment to page 1, line 45. Change "Connecticut Green Bank" to "of the Connecticut Green Bank".

2. PUBLIC AUDIENCE:

Commissioner Beinstein opened the floor for Public Audience.

Commissioner Butler had invited representatives from the two vendors, NXEGEN LLC and JK Energy Solutions, who are supporting the Small Business Energy Advantage program to this meeting to provide status updates and any identified needs from CETF. Mr. Rich Cardita and Mr. Brian Logan representing JK Energy Solutions and Mr. Dan Robertson representing NXEGEN LLC were in attendance. At this time, between the two firms, a total of 11 projects have either been completed or under contract. The overall annual energy savings are on the order of 130,000 kWh with paybacks in some cases as short as 2 years. It was requested that each vendor provide the details of the status to Commissioner Butler for potential use in future publicity of the SBEA program. Both vendors indicated that it would be useful to get energy usage data for the top users to help target the best opportunities for energy savings. Commissioner Butler will discuss this request with Mr. Tom Roy, Simsbury Director of Public Works, as to a possible means to acquire this information. Although visits to the Chamber of Commerce and the Simsbury-Granby Rotary Club have been done, it was felt that follow up sessions would be good now to present actual results and case studies to show the success of the program. Ms. Ali Jackman, from the Eversource Clean Energy Communities/Energy Efficiency program had indicated they would be doing a press release and Commissioner Butler will follow up as to the status. Also, information from both the results and the press release can be used to publish on the CETF page of the Simsbury Town website.

No additional comments were entered into the public record and the forum was closed.

3. BRIGHT IDEA GRANT – DISCUSSION OF PLANS FOR SECOND GRANT:

Commissioner Van Kleef indicated she currently does not have any further information on the thermal imaging possibility. Commissioner Beinstein moved that this discussion topic be tabled until a future meeting. Commissioner Butler seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

4. HIGH SCHOOL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION STATUS UPDATE:

Mr. Tom Roy, Simsbury Director of Public Works, presented the solar installation plan to the Simsbury Board of Selectman at the December 12th meeting. Approval was received to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Connecticut Green Bank as the final step to receive the \$40,500 grant. The Board also approved the acceptance of the grant and authorized the Board of Finance to issue a FY17 Supplemental Appropriation to cover the costs of the installation. The check from the State has subsequently been received and planning is underway to do the installation.

5. SMALL BUSINESS ENERGY ADVANTAGE PLANS/STATUS DISCUSSION:

This was discussed during the public audience.

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6. CETF WEBSITE PLAN DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Van Kleef indicated that she has not yet heard back from Mr. Rick Bazzano, Simsbury Computer Manager, about the CETF link to the Town website. She will provide an update at the next meeting.

7. 100% SIMSBURY PLAN:

Commissioner Scully indicated that this effort is continuing locally with Simsbury data collection/analyses, but it is being expanded further through various groups. These include the Acadia Center, the Clean Coalition, the Clean Water Action group and the Yale School of Forestry and Management. In conjunction with West Hartford, a joint presentation was provided to Eversource in December and was received favorably, but will require much more work to progress. Eversource has requested that the Town leadership be informed and verify that they are behind the plan so that will be initiated in the near future. The plan also has been presented through the People's Action for Clean Energy (PACE) to its membership to get other towns in Connecticut pursuing the same plans in their areas.

8. SIMSBURY PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (POCD) DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Scully indicated that he has attended one of the public sessions that has been scheduled by the Simsbury Planning Commission and will go to the next one also. As a natural tie-in to the Simsbury 100% Plan, that is one aspect that is being proposed for consideration into the updated POCD. Other inputs in regard to sustainability, energy efficiency and clean energy are also being discussed. Commissioner Scully indicated that it may be best to prepare a letter from CETF to provide a unified position to the Simsbury Planning Commission for our input to the POCD. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

9. OPEN FORUM:

No additional topics were discussed.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting is February 14th.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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