

CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE MINUTES
SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
February 14, 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, Mark Scully, Susan Van Kleef, Bill Butler and Bob Beinstein. It was noted that Commissioner Melissa Osborne had tendered her resignation as a regular member of the CETF effective February 3rd, 2017.

1. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING ON JANUARY 9th, 2017:

The minutes from the January 9th meeting were reviewed by all. Commissioner Scully 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 17. Change "were". to "were."
- Amendment to page 1, line 18. Change "out by". to "out by."
- Amendment to page 1, line 19. Change "of the Connecticut Green Bank". to "of the Connecticut Green Bank."
- Amendment to page 1, line 23. Add a parenthetical note after "NEXGEN LLC" as follows: (Note: NEXGEN LLC has changed their name to artisenergy)
- Amendment to page 1, line 33. Change "follow up" to "follow-up"

2. PUBLIC AUDIENCE:

Commissioner Beinstein opened the floor for public audience.

Ms. Susan Andrus Olson was in attendance and indicated that she was just interested in hearing about the status of high school solar panels installation and the discussion on the 100% Simsbury Plan which will be discussed during the regular meeting. Mr. John Olson and Ms. Ieke Scully also were in attendance and indicated they were only there to observe. With no other comments or discussion for the public record, the public audience closed.

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

Commissioner Van Kleef indicated she had contacted four companies on the State list of approved energy audit suppliers that also indicated that they did thermal imaging. Only one company replied to her query - EcoSmart Home Services in East Berlin, CT. EcoSmart indicated that they did the thermal imaging as part of their normal home energy audits at no additional charge. They also indicated the best time to do this test was when there was a good differential temperature difference between the inside/outside temperatures. They also could provide a first look solar feasibility assessment as part of their residential visit. They indicated they had worked with other similar town energy groups with the possibility of a donation to CETF or other designation could be done for each residential audit done in the town during an agreed to period. Commissioner Van Kleef will invite them to a future meeting to discuss further.

4. SHARED SOLAR - POSSIBLE NEW PROPOSAL DISCUSSION:

The State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, DEEP, made a final determination on February 1st, 2017 that they elected to not accept any of the shared solar proposals, but instead will reissue a new Request for Proposal, RFP, to address changes that have determined as needed. One of those changes is to restrict certain land use, e.g. farmland, core forest areas, historic properties and areas with endangered species. As such, the Simsbury proposal that utilized the Simsbury landfill and surrounding property is not affected by that change. Ameresco, Inc is again working with Mr. Tom Roy, Simsbury Director of Public Works, to review the draft RFP to determine that it is economically viable to submit a new proposal when the formal request is released.

5. HIGH SCHOOL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION STATUS UPDATE:

Mr. Tom Roy, Simsbury Director of Public Works, has indicated that the current plans for the installation are in the April time period this year.

6. SMALL BUSINESS ENERGY ADVANTAGE PLANS/STATUS DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Butler indicated that since the last meeting, a press release was provided by Ms. Ali Jackman, from the Eversource Clean Energy Communities/Energy Efficiency program, that has appeared in the Simsbury Patch and also used by Ms. Lisa Heavner, Simsbury First Selectman, in her newsletters. A case study for one of its completed projects has now been done by artisenergy which provides a summary of the energy and cost savings. An overall status summary from both artisenergy and JK Energy Solutions is being solicited from each to provide further information to use for future promotion of the advantages of the program.

7. CETF WEBSITE PLAN DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Van Kleef indicated that Mr. Rick Bazzano, Simsbury Computer Manager, has put the draft CETF time line on the Town website (<http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/clean-energy-task-force>). The time line now will be updated to add more CETF and Town energy achievements. Also added is information on other current projects including the shared solar proposal and the Small Business Energy Advantage program case study done by artisenergy. Ms. Ali Jackman, from the Eversource Clean Energy Communities/Energy Efficiency program, also provided a picture that when posted will gain the Town three points toward our next Bright Ideas Grant.

8. 100% SIMSBURY PLAN:

In response to Eversource's request that the 100% Simsbury Plan have the Town backing, Commissioner Scully had prepared a presentation and formal resolution to be presented at the next Simsbury Board of Selectman meeting on February 15th, 2017. In preparation for this, he and Mr. Tom Roy, Director of Public Works, had met with Ms. Lisa Lisa Heavner, Simsbury First Selectman, to review the information and address any of her questions/concerns. The final presentation and resolution were presented during this meeting to ensure the CETF members were informed of the status as well as invited to participate in the BOS meeting. During the discussion of the presentation and resolution, it was felt that a formal endorsement should be done by the CETF. As such, Commissioner Ray motioned that the CETF endorse the presentation and resolution as presented. Commissioner Van Kleef seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed. The 100% concept has 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. PACE has received a \$30k grant from the Common Sense Fund that will primarily be used with the Clean Coalition to provide its expertise on community micro-grids in support of 100% plans.

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

Commissioner Scully had prepared a letter from CETF to provide a unified position to the Simsbury Planning Commission for our input to the POCD. It was agreed that all CETF members sign the letter to provide evidence of support from all the CETF members. As such, all members signed the letter. Commissioners Scully and Beinstein will be attending the next POCD meeting later this evening and will present the signed letter at that time to the Simsbury Planning Commission. This letter and meeting are not the end of the discussions and input to the POCD as the process is continuing, so it will continue to be discussed at future meetings.

10. OPEN FORUM:

No additional topics were discussed.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting is March 13th.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Scully motioned to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:10 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Butler and unanimously approved.