

CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE MINUTES
SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
March 13, 2017
REGULAR MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 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.

1. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING ON FEBRUARY 14th, 2017:

The minutes from the February 14th meeting were reviewed by all. Commissioner Butler made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Scully seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Amendments agreed are noted as follows:

- Amendment to page 2, line 71. Change "Town" to "town"
- Amendment to page 2, line 77. Change "motioned" to "moved"
- Amendment to page 2, line 79. Remove the space at the beginning of the line.
- Amendment to page 2, line 81. Change "the Clean" to "Clean"

2. PUBLIC AUDIENCE:

Commissioner Beinstein opened the floor for public audience.

Mr. Craig Clark of Eversource and Ms. Becky Pelton of EcoSmart Home Services discussed possible ideas for use of Simsbury's Bright Idea grant. Mr. Clark indicated that the Home Energy Solutions (HES) provides for state subsidized residential energy audits which currently cost the homeowner \$124 co-pay. Some aspects of the audit include: doing a whole house blower door test with any noted air leaks sealed via caulking/weather-stripping; replacing a limited number of light bulbs with LED's; doing an air duct leak test and seal any leaks, change out of faucet/shower heads with low flow aerators/nozzles; evaluation of appliances/electronics, heating/cooling systems, hot water system, and insulation status for suggested recommendations for efficiency improvements and a final DOE Energy Score for the residence. The results of the audit will be provided to the homeowner with the recommendations and rebates that are available for certain items. Mr. Clark stated the state has a goal related to use of follow-on options of 24% of the homes completing the energy audit and the current state-wide average is currently at 18%. He further noted that the DOE Energy Score has been used by local realtors when favorable to support a sale. For low income eligible homeowners, the HES is free. Ms. Becky Pelton indicated that EcoSmart Home Services was one of the approved state energy auditors for the HES program and their firm also included the use of thermal imaging to further identify insulation voids. There is no supplemental fee for this additional service. Ms. Pelton had brought an infra-red camera with her and demonstrated its use to the group. A general discussion was held with CETF members about possible means to structure a program using Bright Idea grant funds either to supplement an audit or pay the entire fee on a first come basis. Mr. Clark indicated that Bloomfield had success with their HES program and suggested that CETF contact them for further details.

Dr. Oksan Bayulgen, Associate Professor of Political Science at UCONN was in attendance along with one of her graduate students, Mr. Matthew Parent. Since her last visit, she indicated that she had applied for a grant that would allow her to further her research in the local community leadership, decision making and culture related to energy and sustainability. At this time, no decision has been determined relative to the grant, so she has not expanded her efforts that would be done if the grant is received. As such, she and Mr. Parent were still just in the observer role and appreciates the openness of the CETF to invite her to their meetings.

Ms. Regina Pynn was in attendance with an interest to join CETF as a member. She indicated that she has a Mechanical Engineering degree and a Systems Engineering degree and works at UTC Aerospace Systems. Former CETF member, Ms. Melissa Osborne, had forwarded her name to the Democratic Town Committee to be formally nominated.

With no other comments or discussion for the public record, the public audience closed.

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

Based on the information and discussion during the Public Audience, further discussion was held in possible ways for a plan to be implemented for the HES program using grant funds. A general consensus that the addition of the infrared

54 imaging was a real plus for the effort and that perhaps CETF could buy a camera that could be used separately by the
55 town, businesses and homeowners. Ways to promote/publicize a program were discussed to include venues such as
56 Septemberfest, local newspapers and included in the First Selectman's report. Commissioner Van Kleef indicated that
57 she will get material in regards to Septemberfest, but understands we would have to pay for space now. Commissioner
58 Ray indicated that he would get information in regard to how Bloomfield has done their program. Commissioner
59 Scully indicated that he had helped in updating the Home Energy Resource sheet that could be used in promoting the
60 program and would provide that to the members. Commissioner Beinstein moved that CETF agree to doing a HES
61 program for the grant and finalize the details at the next meeting. Commissioner Scully seconded the motion and it
62 was unanimously approved. Once a formal proposal for the grant is done, it was indicated that it would be good if all
63 CETF members and the Board of Selectman had an audit done (if not already) as part of the promotion and
64 commitment to the program.

66 **4. SHARED SOLAR - POSSIBLE NEW PROPOSAL DISCUSSION:**

67 After review of the new state shared solar RFP, Ameresco has indicated that it does not feel it can put together a
68 winning proposal due to the target costs. Mr. Tom Roy, Simsbury Director of Public Works, indicates that he will
69 continue to discuss with Ameresco on other possible solar programs for the town. With the effort done already for an
70 installation at the landfill, it still may become a viable project in the future.

72 **5. HIGH SCHOOL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION STATUS UPDATE:**

73 Mr. Roy has indicated that the current plans for the installation of the solar panels on the high school are still scheduled
74 in the April time period this year. In a separate session with Mr. Roy, Commissioners Butler and Scully indicated that
75 a discussion about a solar parking lot installation for the town with the high school being an ideal location was held.
76 This would be like other parking lot solar installations that utilize a car port type cover with the solar on the roof. It
77 would only be proposed for the edge of the parking lot retaining the open area to provide ease of snow plowing parallel
78 to the installation. Mr. Burke LaClair, Simsbury School District Business Manager and Mr. Steven Twitchell,
79 Simsbury School District Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds were contacted and felt it would be worthwhile to
80 investigate. Mr. Roy will work with the school district to pursue a possible RFP in this regard.

82 **6. SMALL BUSINESS ENERGY ADVANTAGE PLANS/STATUS DISCUSSION:**

83 Commissioner Butler indicated that he has not received anything further to the status of the efforts by the two firms
84 doing the audits. He is working with Mr. Tom Roy to get further usage data that will help identify the larger users in
85 town to be sure they are contacted.

87 **7. CETF WEBSITE PLAN DISCUSSION:**

88 Commissioner Van Kleef now has done considerable updates to the CETF website ([http://www.simsbury-
89 ct.gov/clean-energy-task-force](http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/clean-energy-task-force)). This has included adding more details to the time line for CETF and town energy
90 achievements along with related information and documents.

92 **8. 100% SIMSBURY PLAN:**

93 A presentation was made at the Board of Selectman meeting in February. As part of this presentation, a resolution was
94 done for a formal endorsement by the BOS of the effort to meet the request by Eversource. The BOS unanimously
95 approved the resolution and afterwards, Ms. Lisa Heavner, Simsbury First Selectman signed a letter to send to
96 Eversource. This will allow continued discussions with Eversource to support a micro-grid program for Simsbury.
97 Commissioner Scully is continuing to promote the 100% plan to other towns in the state through the People's Action
98 for Clean Energy (PACE) as well as continue the data gathering effort to support the specific plan for Simsbury.

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

101 Commissioner Scully had prepared a draft document to provide language on energy issues for input to the POCD.
102 Additional details about CETF efforts were provided by Commissioner Van Kleef and Commissioner Ray. These
103 primarily included activities/results gathered from the effort to develop the time line utilized on the CETF webpage
104 and the grants that CETF has received. Commissioner Scully will finalize the input to be provided for the POCD
105 based on this additional information.

107 **10. OPEN FORUM:**

108 Commissioner Ray indicated that Ms. Susan Pribyson recently took over as the Executive Director of Gifts of Love
109 and Community Farm. He has discussed with her about publicity for the donated C-Tec solar installation being done
110 at the Community Farm as well as a potential for some type of educational sustainability program at the farm related to
111 locally grown foods.
112

113 **11. NEXT MEETING**

114 The next regularly scheduled meeting is April 11th.
115

116 **12. ADJOURNMENT**

117 Commissioner Scully motioned to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by
118 Commissioner Van Kleeef and unanimously approved.