

CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE MINUTES
SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
Jun 12, 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, Bill Butler, Susan Van Kleef, Bob Beinstein and Regina Pynn. As this was Commissioner Pynn's first meeting since she was formally appointed by the Simsbury Board of Selectman, she was readily welcomed by all other members.

1. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING ON MAY 8th, 2017:

The minutes from the May 8th meeting were reviewed by all. Commissioner Pynn 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 38/39. Change "is on the order of \$26k per year to somewhere in the \$300k range" to "will be an increase from the current \$26k per year to somewhere in the \$300k per year range"
- Amendment to page 1, line 39. Change "is at still at" to "is still at"
- Amendment to page 1, line 48. Change "could cover again the solar aspects" to "could cover the solar aspects"

2. PUBLIC AUDIENCE:

Commissioner Beinstein opened the floor for public audience.

Mr. Roland Peer-Groves, Ms. Linda Peer-Groves, Ms. Emily Peer-Groves and Ms. Julia Clarkson were in attendance. They had all attended the DeepWaterWind open forum and had voiced support of the overall solar project as needed for future clean energy production and that it would be good for Simsbury to take a lead in Connecticut for such a project. They were interested in what the Clean Energy Task Force did. Commissioner Ray provided an overview and history of the group and its efforts with several other members adding more specifics. They did not have any further specific questions or items to be covered, but would just like to observe the rest of the meeting. With no other comments or discussion for the public record, the public audience closed.

3. DWW SOLAR PROJECT:

With the DWW solar project open forums generating so much publicity and in many cases misunderstandings in the Simsbury community, it was felt that CETF should address the concerns/issues as an independent source from DWW to provide information for the Simsbury Board of Selectman and the community at large. As such, Commissioner Van Kleef moved to table the regular agenda items to allow the meeting to focus on the DWW solar project. Commissioner Pynn seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

As a first effort, a list of concerns/issues that came up at the DWW open forums were identified for possible future research. As a first attempt, these included the following:

- Toxicity of solar panels
- Cause of a heat island
- Noise pollution
- Adverse glare on aircraft
- General glare impact on local area
- Construction truck traffic
- Electromagnetic force impact on people
- Home value deterioration
- Site security
- Use of prime farmland
- Screening for near-by properties
- Cutting of trees
- No discounted electric rates for Simsbury or generated energy dedicated for Simsbury
- Adverse impact on wildlife including closing off wildlife corridors
- Groundwater impacts

54 - Fire issues
55 - Why large scale single location versus integrated design
56 - Out of state company versus Connecticut based with all energy credits going out of state
57 In this list, certain ones are directly related to the Tri-State Request for Proposal and are already being addressed as
58 part of the Connecticut Siting Council requirements and review. As such, CETF will focus on those that are generic to
59 solar panel installations where scientific data and research already exists.
60 A general discussion was held in regard to how best to obtain data and also how to share it. It was recognized that for
61 some of the items, data will be available from academia, professional associations and government entities. As a first
62 effort, Commissioner Butler will do some research to identify sources of data and actual data where it already exists.
63 All will provide like information based on any information that they locate.
64 In addition to data in regard to these concerns/issues, additional background information will be collected. This will
65 include information about the project and the Tri-State RFP, the Connecticut Siting Council, and other selected
66 projects in Connecticut.
67 In order to coordinate all the data and information in this regard, Commissioner Van Kleef will set up a Google Docs
68 Shared Folder where all CETF members can contribute.
69 A general discussion was held in regard as to how best share the information once it is available. This included a
70 similar open forum like DWW has held, a FaceBook group, and/or articles for the press. In order to insure that
71 whatever method is in support of the Simsbury Board of Selectman, Commissioner Ray will contact some of the
72 members to get advice/direction in that regard.
73
74 **9. NEXT MEETING**
75 The next regularly scheduled meeting is July 10th.
76
77 **10. ADJOURNMENT**
78 Commissioner Pynn motioned to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:10 p.m. The motion was seconded by
79 Commissioner Ray and unanimously approved.