

CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE MINUTES
SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
August 1, 2016
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: Susan Van Kleef, Jim Ray, Mark Scully and Bob Beinstein.

1. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETINGS ON MAY 2nd and JUNE 6th, 2016:

The minutes from the May 2nd and the June 6th meetings were reviewed by all. Commissioner Van Kleef made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Ray seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

May 2nd Minutes:

- Amendment to page 1, line 26. Change "PLAM" to "PLAN".
- Amendment to page 1, line 29. Change "Carmello Cerna," to "Camilo Serna".

June 6th Minutes:

- Amendment to page 2, line 88. Change phrase 'It was not sure' to 'We are not sure'.

2. PUBLIC AUDIENCE:

Commissioner Beinstein opened the floor for Public Audience. Ms. Susan Andrus Olson was in attendance but indicated she was only there to observe. Mr. Tom Roy, Simsbury Director of Public Works, brought the CETF up to date on several energy related initiatives being done by the town as well as those being done in conjunction with CETF. He indicated that the Bright Idea effort to insulate the town owned low income housing has been successfully completed. He indicated that at the July 11th BOS Meeting, approval was obtained to purchase the street lights and poles from Eversource and to then contract with ESCO Energy to retrofit the lights with LEDs. At the August 8th BOS Meeting, several related energy activities are on the agenda including: authorization of a Letter of Intent with Ameresco, Inc to provide for a lease of the town landfill to be utilized for the shared solar proposal, acceptance of the gift of the solar panels' installation at the Community Farm and to authorize the Town to participate in the Small Business Energy Advantage (SBEA) Program. CETF members were invited to attend this meeting to show support for these projects. It was noted that the State's Request for Proposal for the shared solar program required submittal of the proposal by the 1st of September and that Ameresco has been working with Mr. Roy, Commissioner Beinstein and Commissioner Scully to meet that deadline. It was noted also that the original letter for the SBEA program had been revised as requested by First Selectman Lisa Heavner to remove the mention of the \$50 donation and the donations now will just be put into the CETF account for later action by CETF. He also indicated that activity is now underway by the school district to install the earned solar panels on the high school, and Mr. Roy is coordinating with the State to ensure the funding is provided in support of the effort. The plan is currently to try to get the panels in place this Fall. He indicated that the State \$10,000 grant for the solar recharging station in the Town Hall parking lot required that it be completed by June 30th. That was successfully accomplished and it is now operational and being utilized. Finally, Mr. Roy indicated that Mr. Tyler Brett has been hired as a summer intern to conduct the solar analysis of the Simsbury buildings as part of the 100% Energy Plan. Commissioner Scully indicated that effort would be discussed further under the regular meeting agenda item. With no further discussions brought forward, Commissioner Beinstein closed the public audience.

3. BRIGHT IDEA GRANT:

The status of the initial \$10,000 grant utilized for the low income housing was discussed as part of the public audience. For the second \$10,000 grant, Commissioner Ray indicated that the State had approved the concept of doing infrared surveys of houses in the Town would be acceptable use of the grant funds. Commissioner Van Kleef indicated that Portland, CT had done some type of infrared survey and will contact them for more information. Further discussion of this or other ideas will be addressed in the next meeting.

54 **4. HIGH SCHOOL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION STATUS UPDATE:**

55 As noted in the public audience discussion, progress is now being made. Since the last meeting, Commissioner Ray
56 had put together a summary/time line of the grant efforts and Commissioner Beinstein had met with Mr. Matt Curtis,
57 Superintendent of Schools to bring him up to date of the effort and gain his support to get the installation completed.
58

59 **5. GREEN BUSINESS CHALLENGE PROGRAM/SMALL BUSINESS POWER DOWN PLANS/STATUS**
60 **DISCUSSION:**

61 Coordination has been done with the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce to host an event in September and JK Energy
62 Solutions and NEXEGEN LLC are ready to contact each of the small businesses. Once the BOS approve the SBEA
63 program, the letter will be finalized that will go out to each of the businesses.
64

65 **6. CETF WEBSITE PLAN DISCUSSION:**

66 Commissioner Van Kleeef discussed the efforts to update the CETF page on the website. It was agreed that one aspect
67 would be to include a link to a time line of CETF accomplishments. Commissioner Van Kleeef will send out a draft
68 listing to Commissioner Ray and Mr. Tom Roy for review and addition of details/time periods.
69

70 **7. 100% SIMSBURY PLAN DISCUSSION:**

71 Commissioner Scully indicated that the summer intern, Mr. Tyler Brett has done the analysis of quite a few of the
72 buildings in Simsbury using the Helioscope software tool to get a rough estimate of the solar potential. Multiple joint
73 and cooperative efforts are on-going with West Hartford, Acadia Center, People's Action for Clean Energy (PACE),
74 Clean Coalition, Eversource, Stamford 2030, and the Common Sense Fund. Commissioner Scully provided a copy of
75 draft presentation entitled 'Forging a Pathway to a 100% Renewable Future' as an interim summary of the joint efforts
76 between Simsbury and West Hartford. This is a long term effort so a lot more effort will be required to finalize an
77 overall plan and as such, will be a continuing CETF agenda item.
78

79 **8. SHARED SOLAR DISCUSSION:**

80 The status of the shared solar proposal status was discussed during the public audience.
81

82 **9. OPEN FORUM:**

83 Commissioner Van Kleeef discussed the State's 'eesmarts' program. No actions were identified as it was assumed the
84 information was going out to the schools. Commissioner Ray indicated that Mr. Bill Butler now has a scheduled
85 interview with the Town Republican Committee continuing the process to become a CETF member.
86

87 **10. NEXT MEETING**

88 The next regularly scheduled meeting is September 6th.
89

90 **11. ADJOURNMENT**

91 Commissioner Scully motioned to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:20 p.m. The motion was seconded by
92 Commissioner Van Kleeef and unanimously approved.