

CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE MINUTES
SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
October 4, 2016
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: Susan Van Kleef, Jim Ray, Mark Scully and Bob Beinstein.

1. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 6th, 2016:

The minutes from the September 6th meeting was reviewed by all. Commissioner Van Kleef 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 1, line 9. Change "SEPTEMBER 6th" to "AUGUST 1st".
- Amendment to page 1, line 10. Change "September 6th" to "August 1st" and change "was" to "were".
- Amendment to page 1, line 26. Add the following after the phrase "... home energy audits.": "A key to this effort needs to include the same type of after action report as done with the home energy audits with energy related options along with discounts/rebates for ultimate energy savings."
- Amendment to page 1, line 48. Change "synergism," to "synergy".
- Amendment to page 2, line 58. Change "lease" to "lease option".

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. Bill Butler was also in attendance and indicated he had the Small Business Energy Advantage letter to Simsbury businesses now signed by First Selectman Lisa Heavner and would be contacting Mr. Charles Houlihan, Chamber of Commerce President now to get his signature. Once signed, he will get a copy to NXEGEN LLC and JK Energy Solutions so they can use it when contacting the businesses in town.

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 that she had not had time to do further research on the potential of infrared surveys possibly in conjunction with home energy audits, so this topic was tabled until the next meeting.

4. HIGH SCHOOL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION STATUS UPDATE:

The town has received a letter from the Connecticut Green Bank indicating they are bringing their support to the Clean Energy Communities to a close. As such, the award allocation to Simsbury of \$40,500 must have a formal reimbursement request submitted no later than December 31, 2016. As this funding was the equivalent basis of the earned solar panels planned for the high school installation, that is still the consensus of CETF to continue with that basis. However, if the high school installation is in jeopardy of being completed, alternatives for the funding will need to be addressed to not lose it. Commissioner Beinstein will follow up with Mr. Tom Roy, Director of Public Works and Mr. Burke LaClair, Simsbury Schools Business Manager to get the latest status and plans for completion. Due to the critical need to address this, alternative plans will be discussed, if needed, at the next meeting.

5. SMALL BUSINESS ENERGY ADVANTAGE PLANS/STATUS DISCUSSION:

In addition to the SBEA discussion during the Public Audience, Commissioner Scully indicated that he had presented the program to the Chamber of Commerce event on September 27th. The order of the program had the presentation prior to their formal event such that not all members were in attendance at that time. Additional presentations along with press coverage will be done in the future to continue to publicize the program.

6. CETF WEBSITE PLAN DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Van Kleef indicated that with the draft time line of CETF and Town energy activities, she has prepared a sample timeline display via Google sites to both view and see what is possible. Commissioner Van Kleef will send out this sample to the CETF membership for information. Once completed, this feature will be added to the CETF webpage on the Town website.

7. 100% SIMSBURY PLAN:

Commissioner Scully indicated he is continuing to work through the People's Action for Clean Energy (PACE) group to provide a well-known source for further emphasis. A presentation of the 100% renewable energy project is scheduled for PACE's Annual Meeting on November 12th.

8. SHARED SOLAR STATUS:

Simsbury's proposal in conjunction with Ameresco, Inc. was submitted for consideration by the due date of September 1st. In review of the State's website that provides summaries of the proposals submitted, there were 18 total. Simsbury appears to be the only proposal that was listed as a specific town submittal although most are tied to a specific town. Likewise, Simsbury's proposal appears to be the only one utilizing a land fill. Although these have the appearance of being positive, it is unknown what the State's final evaluation selection criteria is based so no conclusions can be made. No date for a selection has been made public by the State.

9. OPEN FORUM:

Commissioner Scully indicated that at a recent Sustain Connecticut Energy Network conference call, a review of efforts of their Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Working Group was discussed. Since Simsbury is just starting to update their POCD, it was recommended that CETF review what is being done by other municipalities and consider input into Simsbury's plan. Commissioner Ray indicated that he would research what is being done and also the means to provide input into Simsbury's plan. This will be added to the next meeting's agenda for further review/discussion.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting is November 7th.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Scully motioned to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:50 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Van Kleef and unanimously approved.