

CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE MINUTES
SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
November 7, 2016
REGULAR MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Commissioner Beinstein in the Main Conference Room 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 OCTOBER 4th, 2016:

The minutes from the October 4th meeting was 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.

Amendments agreed are noted as follows:

- Amendment to page 2, line 69. Change "land fill" to "landfill".
- Amendment to page 2, line 74. Change "Sustain" to "Sustainable".

2. PUBLIC AUDIENCE:

Commissioner Beinstein opened the floor for Public Audience.

Mr. Bill Butler indicated that the Small Business Energy Advantage (SBEA) letter had been signed by Ms. Lisa Heavner, Simsbury First Selectman, Mr. Charles Houlihan, Simsbury Chamber of Commerce President and Commissioner Ray on behalf of the CETF. It has been provided to the two vendors, NXEGEN LLC and JK Energy Solutions to use when they contact businesses in town. Mr. Butler indicated that the vendors would be visiting the business property at 125 Powder Forest Drive. This building is used by multiple businesses and is handled by a property management firm. A similar property at 175 Powder Forest Drive is also a possibility, but the property management firm indicates that considerable energy conservation work has already been done there and is reluctant to do another audit. Mr. Butler indicated that the signed SBEA letter will be sent out on an e-blast by the Chamber of Commerce to its membership list but the Chamber has indicated that a \$25 cost would be involved and has requested CETF to fund it. This will be addressed during the formal meeting.

Mr. Tom Roy, Simsbury Director of Public Works, was present and provided updates on the shared solar proposal and the high school solar installation. Mr. Roy indicated that he had received an e-mail in regard to the shared solar that stated that Eversource indicated that for that size of a system, they would need to install an inverter at an approximate cost of \$500k and thus would not approve the proposal. It was noted that there was no criteria included in the request for proposal that indicated such a size limitation or need for an inverter. Eversource indicated that a much smaller installation could be accommodated, but Ameresco has already indicated that would not be economically viable. As such, shared solar is not feasible under the state demonstration program but will be reconsidered in the future if a new round of proposals is requested or if they authorize shared solar to be provided in the state. In regard to the high school solar installation, based on the need to secure an alternate supplier, a vendor already approved by the state, Millennium Builders, has indicated that it can provide a proposal in time to meet the state's time requirements. As such, Mr. Roy is coordinating the effort with Mr. Burke LaClair, Simsbury Schools Business Manager, to solicit a proposal. In discussion with Connecticut Green Bank, Mr. Roy has been told that all they will need is a firm proposal for the installation to release the funds. As such, this is still on track to finalize the plan in December to obtain the funds.

Mr. Roy had provided a discussion document in regard to the LED street light selection prior to the meeting. The first phase of the effort is being finalized with the purchase of the 651 streetlights from Eversource to be owned and maintained by the Town of Simsbury. The second phase will be the renovation of all of the street lights to utilize LED lights. Mr. Roy introduced Mr. Jack Hanley, of ESCO Energy Services Company, that will be the overall lead for this effort, and Mr. Michael Miceli, of Holophane, that will be providing the LED light fixtures. Also Mr. Mike Paine, Simsbury Board of Selectman, was in attendance as the Board of Selectman wanted a recommendation from CETF in regard to the LED light selection. The CETF is to address the concerns associated with the American Medical Association's (AMA) report on the possible harmful effects of some LED lighting in their recommendation. A lengthy discussion about all aspects of the LED lights was held covering LED brightness versus existing lights, 'smart light' future capability possible through the addition of a 7 pin connector, overall life expectancy improvements, cost savings over existing lights, any impact on dark skies criteria, possible mix of different LEDs, and the specific AMA concerns

in regard to the possible LED choices. The basic decision came down to the choice of either a 4,000 Kelvin rated LED or a 3,000 Kelvin rated LED. Again further discussion as to the effective lighting differences along with operating cost differences indicated that both had effective lighting improvements over the existing lights, the most common ones currently used were the 4,000K ones (which the AMA cited as causing possible issues) and if 3,000K were used, there was estimated to have a possible 6 - 12% increase in operating costs over the 4,000K but still within the estimated savings the Town was using in the budgetary estimate. With all the salient discussion, CETF members felt they had enough information to make a decision during the formal part of the meeting.

Dr. Oksan Bayulgen, Associate Professor of Political Science at UCONN was in attendance. She indicated she was doing research in the leadership, decision making and culture related to energy and sustainability. As such, she was interested in the meeting discussions and process utilized by the CETF in its efforts.

Mr. Paul Horowitz was also in attendance but indicated he was only there to observe.

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 found four companies in Connecticut that did infrared surveys and also were part of the home energy audit program. One was not geographically close to Simsbury, but the other three were close enough to be contacted for a possible joint program in Simsbury. Commissioner Van Kleef will contact these three and report back at the next meeting.

4. HIGH SCHOOL SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION STATUS UPDATE/ALTERNATIVE USE OF FUNDS:

This was discussed by Mr. Tom Roy during the public audience and with the actions to get a new proposal, no further discussion was needed.

5. SMALL BUSINESS ENERGY ADVANTAGE PLANS/STATUS DISCUSSION:

This was discussed by Mr. Bill Butler during the public audience. One action needed was to approve the funds for the Chamber of Commerce e-blast to send out the SBEA letter to its membership. Commissioner Van Kleef made a motion to approve the requested \$25 authorization to reimburse the Chamber of Commerce to send out the e-blast. Commissioner Ray seconded it. All voted in favor. Mr. Tom Roy indicated to have the Chamber send the invoice to him and he will authorize payment out of CETF funds.

6. CETF WEBSITE PLAN DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Van Kleef indicated that the draft time line of CETF and Town energy activities that was previously shared will be discussed with Mr. Rick Bazzano, Simsbury Computer Manager, for linkage to the Town website.

7. 100% SIMSBURY PLAN:

Commissioner Scully had to leave early, so no update was given. However, Mr. Tom Roy indicated that Mr. Tyler Brett is continuing to do the data analysis related to the solar potential for buildings. Mr. Brett started this effort as a Summer Intern and is continuing it part time from his studies at UCONN.

8. SHARED SOLAR STATUS:

This was covered by Mr. Tom Roy during the Public Audience. With the proposal not approved, no further action is needed.

9. LED STREET LIGHT PROPOSAL REVIEW/DISCUSSION:

As discussed in the Public Audience, CETF needed to make a recommendation to the Board of Selectman in regard to the selection of the LED's. A general consensus was that since the AMA report had specifically addressed the 4,000K LED's as the potential issue and that the 3,000K LED's still provided improved lighting over the existing ones, CETF recommends that the 3,000K LED's be utilized. Mr. Mike Paine will report back to the Board of Selectman with this recommendation.

107 **10. SIMSBURY PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION:**

108 Commissioner Ray sent out some recent POCD's from other towns that had included energy related policy. The
109 Simsbury Planning Commission has scheduled input sessions on December 13, January 10 and February 14 where
110 CETF could provide a overall position. Commissioner Scully provided an input via their survey form which is another
111 means to still provide input. Due to the other business at this meeting taking up so much time, further discussion on
112 this will be conducted at the December meeting.
113

114 **11. OPEN FORUM:**

115 Commissioner Ray provided a draft meeting calendar for 2017 which basically moved the meetings to the second
116 Monday (except as impacted by holidays as normal). This move had been previously discussed as there were conflicts
117 on the first Monday of the month for some members. Commissioner Van Kleef made a motion to accept the proposed
118 dates as is. Commissioner Ray seconded it. All voted in favor.
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120 **12. NEXT MEETING**

121 The next regularly scheduled meeting is December 5th.
122

123 **13. ADJOURNMENT**

124 Commissioner Van Kleef motioned to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:40 p.m. The motion was seconded by
125 Commissioner Ray and unanimously approved.