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To: SimsburyCT_EnergyMin
Cc:

CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE MINUTES

January 4, 2010

SPECIAL MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:57 p.m. by Chairman Boeshans in Room 103 of Simsbury Town Hall, with the following members present: Patrick Boeshans, Jim Ray, Susan Van Kleef, Al Weisbrich, and Lori Fernand.

1. APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed by all and Chairman Boeshans requested a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 9th, 2009. Commissioner Weisbrich made the motion to approve the minutes with noted changes. Commissioner Ray seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

2. PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Chairman Boeshans opened up the floor for public audience. No comments were entered into the record and the public audience was closed.

3. REVIEW OF ACTIONABLE ITEMS

Commissioner Fernand indicated that Simsbury had received the first installment of \$2,000 (out of a total of \$4,000) for the microgrant program sponsored by the Clean Energy Fund. The first step will be to produce a Request for Proposals (RFPs) where the funding can be used to make multi-grants for different projects. A specific criteria list will be needed to assess the proposals received. Commissioner Fernand will put together the draft RFP and the criteria following the guidelines provided by the Clean Energy Fund. Discussion about how to publicize the RFP included use of Simsbury town e-mails, distribution to the schools, flyers at the Library/Town Hall and Eno Hall, Scouts, local area news such as Simsbury Life, Simsbury News, Yankee Flyer, Courant I Towns, Valley Press and SCTV. Also will plan to put up on the town website under What's New and the section used for all RFPs. Commissioner Van Kleef will get contact information and get any specifics needed for updating the town website.

Commissioner Fernand also discussed possible publicity and target markets for the publicity. She will contact the source for media displays, www.nutmegexhibit.com to get pricing.

Chairman Boeshans indicated that he had talked to Bob Avery at the High School about the Environment Club students participating with the CETF efforts. A survey was taken and 12 students indicated interest in helping. Ideas as to how they can help could be a Facebook Group/Page related to the efforts, making a film for use on the web, e.g. YouTube and preparing an updated display for use with the Town Hall display case. Commissioner Ray indicated that at the Avon workshop, he had discussed with a member of the Avon Clean Energy Task Force some sort of competition between the Avon and the Simsbury High Schools that could include who can get the most clean energy sign-ups or an energy saving competition like that done in the West Hartford Schools. Commissioner Ray will follow up to verify that Avon High School would be interested.

Commissioner Van Kleeef indicated her progress in looking at the current school curriculum and how the best way would be to include a clean energy segment. The aim is to follow the same skills that are currently being taught with supplementary material added to include clean energy. For example, there is already a teaching skill that uses batteries to demonstrate series and parallel circuits and their effect where a solar photovoltaic cell could also be added. Commissioner Van Kleeef will go ahead and procure a demonstration solar photovoltaic kit and obtain a source solar light to be used as the "sun" to work out the details of a lesson plan. She is coordinating with the lead science teacher at the Simsbury schools and will pass along her ideas to get acceptance as well as determine if this is considered a significant enough change that would require approval from the Board of Education.

Commissioner Ray gave a summary of some of the material presented at the Avon workshop with the most significant item being the Clean Energy Fund initiative related to not only changing to a Clean Energy supplier but also choosing a lower cost Energy Generation source. CL&P is the primary electrical distribution, infra-structure maintenance and administrative source such that regardless of the selections, it is basically transparent to the user as everything still comes in the one bill and CL&P still takes care of any electrical distribution issues. What the choice of the Energy Generation source adds is an easy way to offset the cost increase for the Clean Energy option. As such, someone signing up for the Clean Energy option can choose a Energy Generation source that will basically offset the increase or even reduce the overall bill. Some of the handouts from the meeting were also distributed. Commissioner Ray also indicated that in discussion with Kat West of Sterling Planet at the meeting, it appeared that they would set up an agreement with the CETF that would provide some payment to the town based on any sign-ups provided directly to Sterling Planet without any issue of also continuing to sign-up with the Community Energy option. It was agreed that Commissioner Ray will invite Kat West to a future meeting to discuss. Commissioner Ray also will contact Roger Smith about coming to a future meeting to address the efforts he is doing for the Clean Energy Fund.

At the workshop, Commissioner Ray had been approached by Roger Smith (the workshop organizer) about Simsbury's interest in a multi-town proposal for an Energy Manager. Commissioner Ray indicated that Simsbury would and to contact Tom Roy. Chairman Boeshans indicated that the Town had already agreed to participate and has sent out a formal letter in that regard. Chairman Boeshans indicated that he would contact Rick Sawitzke to come to a future meeting and bring the CETF up to date on the energy grant received by the town as well as Charles Moret for an update about the state level of efforts.

Chairman Boeshans said we will be discuss the Green Business Certification at the next meeting. He also said that he had prepared a year end report for the town which includes a discussion of changing the name of the Task Force to a Green Commission to be able to better represent the activities of the group.

4. IDENTIFICATION OF NEW ACTIONABLE ITEMS

No additional new action items were added over those discussed above.

5. OPEN FORUM

Commissioner Van Kleef indicated that the Farmington Valley Watershed is sponsoring a Winter Country Fair on Feb 21st where we might have an opportunity to have a display. It was agreed that Commissioner Van Kleef would follow up for more details.

6. NEXT MEETING/FUTURE MEETINGS CALENDER

The calendar for 2010 was reviewed at the last meeting and has been sent to the town for putting on their master calendar. Chairman Boeshans is also sending Agendas in advance to the town so they have them in plenty of time to be posted. It is hoped that the meetings can be held at the Simsbury Library so the Town Hall building will not have to remain open after hours for only the CEFT meeting, but right now all meetings are still scheduled for Room 103 in Town Hall. The next meeting is scheduled for 19th.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ray motioned to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:43 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weisbrich and unanimously approved.