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CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE MINUTES

February 8, 2012

REGULAR MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. by Chairman Boeshans in room 103 of Simsbury Town Hall, with the following members present: Jim Ray, Susan Van Kleeef, Bob Beinstein and Patrick Boeshans.

1. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING JANUARY 25, 2012

The draft minutes from the January 25th meeting were reviewed by all. Commissioner Van Kleeef made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Ray seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

2. PUBLIC AUDIENCE

Chairman Boeshans opened the floor for public audience. Deputy First Selectman John Hampton was present and updated the task force on general items, including the review of available finances from the Aquarion grant.

3. REVIEW OF ACTIONABLE ITEMS/ACTION PLAN FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Commissioner Van Kleeef updated the task force regarding a meeting she attended on February 2nd at Henry James Middle School. The meeting was with Janet Black coordinator for the family and consumer science departments, who is overseeing the schools garden project. HJMS is the 2012 target for a sustainability educational initiative. Preliminary discussions were held around the task force funding an expanded gardening, local food-local sourcing project. Janet Black was also going to speak with other educators regarding the opportunity. The task force discussed programs that could provide ongoing curriculum to HJMS as an alternative to single year initiatives.

Tom Roy provided the task force with a written update on pending energy-related items, which were distributed to all participants but not reviewed at the meeting or read into the minutes.

Commissioner Ray provided the task force with an update on the clean energy options program. Simsbury is number one in the state out of 169 communities in total sign-ups over the past twelve months.

Chairman Boeshans updated the task force on the CEOP grant program process. He is preparing to enter the final grant information from the previous year, which should qualify the town for a second micro-grant of 2,000 dollars to be utilized by residents to support clean energy initiatives.

Commissioner Beinstein discussed the Smart Growth Building Blocks Grants Program information, which he forwarded to Tom Roy. Additionally, a general discussion was held regarding the dearth of grant funds that are available in the areas of sustainability and clean energy.

Commissioner Beinstein discussed the charter update process and his intent to draft of a new charter for the task force to include a more holistic view of sustainability and implement framework plans and ecosystem services to be implemented in Simsbury. A discussion was held regarding the future mission of the committee and the overall town vision for sustainability.

4. OPEN FORUM

No additional topics were identified.

5. NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting is February 29, 2012.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Van Kleeef motioned to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ray and unanimously approved.