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Cc:

CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE MINUTES

April 8, 2010

REGULAR MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 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. Also present were invited guests from Community Energy, Mark Garrett and Jim Iacovelli along with a Simsbury resident, Harald Bender.

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 March 24th, 2010. Commissioner Van Kleef 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. Mark Garrett and Jim Iacovelli provided an overview of Community Energy, one of the two Connecticut certified Clean Energy sources. Mr. Garrett indicated that currently there are about 25,000 customers signed up with the Clean Energy option with the breakout by source being 15,000 with Community Energy and 10,000 with Sterling Planet. Also about 50% of the 169 towns in Connecticut have signed up to the 20% Clean Energy by 2010. The state currently is getting about 7% of the energy from clean energy sources so the town's will need to get an additional 13% to reach the 20% goal. Part of the goal for the clean energy options is also help increase the development of clean energy suppliers within the Northeast. Community Energy provides 33% of its energy from Northeast wind suppliers (which it also owns some of the wind producers), 34% from Northeast small hydro sources with the remaining from National wind suppliers. The importance of generating additional Northeast suppliers is very evident in the current costs between production in the Northeast versus a wind rich area like Texas where Texas can provide the same power at 1/10th of the cost currently in the Northeast. It was recognized that the CT DUC has required CL&P and UI to allow additional energy suppliers that can signed

up in combination with the Clean Energy options where the total electric bill can be about the same as from CL&P or UI directly. Some of the alternate energy suppliers advertise that they also get some of their energy from clean energy sources, but that are not restricted to the same requirements as Community Energy or Sterling Planet. As such, there is no third party certification of their claims and there is no restriction from their sources all being outside of the Northeast. Community Energy and Sterling Planet will be the only certified suppliers into 2011 when the DUPC opens the program for a new cycle of competition. Mr. Garrett indicated that there had been a lot of confusion about these new supplier's claim of clean energy to the public and along with some of their aggressive marketing practices had generated several consumer complaints to DUPC. Since the alternate suppliers are offering lower costs, since their inception within the last year, 20% of the customer base had already signed up to those sources versus only about 2% for Clean Energy after three years of effort. It was questioned whether Community Energy had thought about working with one of the alternate suppliers to provide a package deal with the resulting being a lower cost to the consumer. Mr. Garrett indicated that one of the problems was the non-regulation of these companies so it was hard to get an agreement with a company that was not bound by any requirements as to the source of their own supply. Another issue is that CL&P and UI had been working with Community Energy and Sterling Planet to allow sign ups with just the person's name/signature and they would look up the account information. Currently the others are not allowed to sign up anyone without full account information such that sign ups at the grass roots level would not be practical as no one would have that information with them.

Mr. Garrett indicated that his and Mr. Iacovelli's main efforts were at the grass roots level to get sign ups for Clean Energy. They do many different community activities to be where the public is to get their sign ups. Chairman Boeshans indicated that there was a Simsbury Volunteer Expo on April 28th and Mr. Iacovelli indicated he would come and participate in that event with the Task Force. Mr. Garrett indicated that they would also support other Task Force sign up efforts with an indication that Fitzgerald's had agreed to allow sign ups as long as the Task Force was the lead. Other suggestions were mentioned in regard to the Farmer's Market, Andy's and the Library.

Mr. Garrett indicated that Community Energy had a cooperative agreement where they would offer \$25 for each sign up that was done by the Task Force on a specific Community Energy form that could be verified as being done by the Task Force efforts. Chairman Boeshans asked if this could be done on a non-exclusive basis as the Task Force already has another like agreement with Sterling Planet. Mr. Garrett verified that it also would be non-exclusive. Mr. Boeshans then made a motion to accept the Community Energy offer for a non-exclusive agreement with the Task Force to receive \$25 with each sign up on a special Community Energy form. Commissioner Weisbrach

seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Mr. Bender indicated his interest was the better use of energy within Simsbury. He indicated that he had seen the previously proposed River Oaks development and now the Dorsett Crossing development with no guidance or restrictions on energy. As such, their construction methods would have been pretty standard not taking advantage of site orientation or energy conservation techniques that could have been introduced with very little increase in costs with substantial return on investments with year to year energy use. One area he would like to also see within Simsbury is the use and requirement for full cut off fixtures (no glass below the horizontal shade) where the light pollution is reduced and with more directed source for the desired lighting, the ability to use lower wattage lights. With Simsbury's current effort to replace outdoor and parking lot lights and the possibility of taking over the street lights from CL&P, these should be considered as part of that effort. Also Mr. Bender would like to see Simsbury adopt some sort of energy code like the LEED standards for new construction and renovations. With efficiency improvements in air coupled heat pumps or even ground coupled heat pumps, significant energy savings could be obtained.

Although the Clean Energy Task Force does not have the authority to address Mr. Bender's ideas, it will pass them on to the proper channels within Simsbury government. A general discussion was held as to what the Task Force may be able to do with one option being the Energy Fair that has already been discussed, a series of classes on energy conservation and/or act as an energy source clearinghouse for information. Another possibility would be to incentivize builders to incorporate energy aspects to achieve a LEED type building with perhaps a one year tax abatement.

3. REVIEW OF ACTIONABLE ITEMS

Chairman Boeshans indicated that he had worked with the Simsbury High School Environmental Club members to put up a new Clean Energy display in Town Hall. It will be up for the month of April. He also indicated he had been in contact with Signature Marketing in regard to the availability of their composter to use at the Volunteer Expo and got a very positive response. He will be meeting with them later this week to discuss ways they may help support the CETF.

Commissioner Van Kleef showed the latest design updates to the Green Business decals based on input from CETF members. It was decided that the green border would be maintained for both the basic certification and the gold level certification with the center section for the gold certification to be in gold with the word 'gold'. Commissioner Van Kleef will now finalize the decals based on this. Donations or various sources for bids will be pursued with the final design. She also indicated that for the school solar science kit, she had found the best lamps for use with the photovoltaics to be from Target. She had talked to Target corporate who had indicated that she should talk to a local store manager to arrange for a bulk buy. The fact that the CETF should be able to buy these tax exempt

was discussed so she will talk with Tom Roy about how to handle that. Commissioner Fernand indicated that the Community Innovations Grant RFP has been finalized and released but was not yet on the Town Website (it was subsequently verified that it was added on April 8th). Grant submittal deadline is April 30th. She has already been distributing copies of the grants to local community groups and will make copies to be available at Town Hall and the Library. All members will continue to get the word out to groups and individuals to ensure that it is widespread.

A general discussion was held in regard to the upcoming Volunteer Expo. Commissioner Fernand will attempt to get the banner design finalized and created prior to that, but the prior banner will be used if that is not available. A list of items was reviewed that included the leftover supply of CFL's, the shower faucet low flow heads and water bottles provided by Aquarion Water Co, sign up forms for the Clean Energy Option (one for both Community Energy and Sterling Planet), the possibility of the composter from Signature Marketing along with flyers for it, the solar science kits for demonstrating, copies of the grant RFP and candy. Chairman Boeshans will look at getting silk screened T shirts with the Green Business decal logo.

A general discussion of how to kick off the Green Business certification program was held. It was felt with the criteria and check list, that all the members could go ahead and contact businesses that have shown interest as well as those noted as signing up to the Clean Energy option. A kick off with the Chamber of Commerce will be planned in the future.

4. IDENTIFICATION OF NEW ACTIONABLE ITEMS

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

5. OPEN FORUM

Commissioner Weisbrich indicated that he had attended a session with Murtha Cullina Lawyers which is forming a new Renewable Energy Association. The new association, Renewable Energy and Efficiency Business Association, will be intended to keep members up to date on regulatory and legislative information, provide a cooperative effort in developing public policy, advocate creative and innovative solutions to enhance implementation of alternative energy within the regulatory system and provide assistance in funding opportunities available. A handout will be distributed to all CETF members for discussion at the next meeting for possible sign-up as a member.

6. NEXT MEETING/FUTURE MEETINGS CALENDER

The next scheduled meeting is April 26th.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ray motioned to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:55 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weisbrich and unanimously approved.

