

Clean Energy ad Hoc Committee

Minutes from May 6, 2019

Present: Greg Ames, Bill Horne, Chris Lenda, Shirley McCarthy, R. Saltz

Absent: Frank Gasparo.

Guests: Elena Cahill, Sharon Huttner, Dave McCarthy, Diana Ross

1. *Mark Scully and Bernard Pelletier from PACE (People's Action for Clean Energy) presented to the committee members, guests and also present from the Town. Jamie Cosgrove, Terry Elton, Jim Finch, John Hoeffler, Harry Smith, Diana Ross and Dave McCarthy. Using Branford's Grand list, Eversource and CT Southern Gas data, the speakers elucidated how Branford could move to renewables and save money in the long term, eg, resistance electricity is very expensive and can be readily changed to heat pumps. Another advantage would be: changing to a secure grid that utilizes clean energy would maintain power to our wastewater treatment plants in a hurricane. Resources for us: Solview, CT Green bank, Sierra100, CT Efficiency funds. The Town guests departed after a few questions and discussion.*
2. *Report from Green Infrastructure Group: C. Lenda, R. Saltz and B. Horne met on 4/29 and decided to prioritize characterizing the current energy use by Town buildings. They plan to meet with J. Cosgrove and find out the scope of Honeywell's evaluation of energy use in Town facilities and to request that the clean energy committee receive the reports that Honeywell will be filing annually. B. Horne also suggested working with the Planner and Planning & Zoning Commission to install conduit during the construction phase in order to facilitate the eventual installation of charging stations and recommending to J. Cosgrove that the Town consider creating a community solar installation.*
3. *Follow-up from EV Subgroup: G. Ames added to the EV document given to J. Cosgrove about specifics on EV vehicles and suggested we meet again with the new information in the context of the PACE report. Electrifying our school buses via First Student should be a priority given our children need an example of clean energy use and gasoline pollution is harmful to health.*
4. *Branford Festival: (June 15, 8 AM to 3 PM). We can showcase that we exist and provide green energy information and outreach. Possible resources include the following: E. Cahill suggested a venue, such as the Energy Star exhibit on Universal Drive at Exit 9, I-91. She will talk to Mike Barlow, who authored Smart City, Smart Future, about how to engage the public and ask him to meet with us. B. Horne will talk to Cathy Lezon about information she may have for the Festival.*
5. *The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6 pm. Motion: B. Horne; 2nd R. Saltz.*

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