

Branford Clean Energy Ad Hoc Committee 6/17/24 Meeting Minutes

Present: John Prins, Donna Laich, Greg Ames, Sharon Huttner, Shirley McCarthy, Jim Killelea, Dan Rabin, Vince Chiochio,

Absent: Elena Cahill, Mike Cohen, Eunice Mahler, Bob Babcock

Chair McCarthy called meeting to order at 4:05pm

- 1. **Minutes** of 5/20/24 meeting approved unanimously.
- 2. **G. Ames: Buildings:** Discussed letter drafted by VChiochio over concerns from the high energy usage of DCAS, presently being review by Town Attorney.

Discussed High Cost of Solar Parking Canopy for Police Station and possible funding from Green Bank

Also discussed possible structural concerns of the roof holding the solar panels and additional insulation.

- 3. **D.Rabin** Reported on Heat Smart: Managing 2 Programs for both Branford and East Haven.

Performance Report:

Town	HES Completed	HES-IE Goal
Branford	16	29
East Haven	91	52

Recent Activities:

Buckslip insert will be provided to the Branford Tax Office and East Haven Tax Office to be included in upcoming bill mailing.

Slot available for East Haven’s Farmers Market for Heat Smart. Looking for volunteers to assist Sunday Mornings between 8:00 and 1:00

BFD CEC Heat Smart Committee will continue to foster East Haven until next Year. East Haven is enthusiastic about creating its own Clean Energy Commission/Committee.

Program Support from Energize CT will end in October. (East Haven Support continues to end of Year) Grant may end next Year, still up in the air.

- 4. **B.Babcock: Energy Efficiency Campaign:** Bob sent an e-mail summary to the Chair of his work for the committee which was read by Shirley McCarthy.
- 5. **S.McCarthy:** Blaize Levitan was at the 5/23 Greenbank meeting. He was invited to meet and speak to the CEC in July to present his plan for the Schools. She also reported that **Mike Cohen** did not get support from a local developer re: solar canopies.

ECOLOGY PARK discussed the proposed solar array and possible solutions for location and layout. The Committee overall supported the installation of the solar panels in the park and believed that the environmental benefits would have a greater overall impact than the visual aesthetics or the possible loss of any view.

6. **S.Huttner: EV Chargers** There are 13 Charger locations in the town, and will try and acquire list and type. 3 Additional locations were being discussed for new EV Chargers

7. **D.Laich: The recreation department** has an interest in obtaining an SUV type EV. Donna was concerned that the budget wording did not specifically call out an EV which was a change from what was listed in the original plan. \$50,000 was budgeted for the Vehicle and we would qualify for the \$7500 tax incentive from the Federal Government. Concerns that an EV-SUV could exceed that amount.

8. **New Business**

John Prins discussed the "Repair Café" event held at the Trinity Church. Possibly 80 people attended, and a majority were Branford Residents. All felt it was a great success. The contributors/volunteers were Excellent and extremely generous with their time.

John Prins stated and it was also discussed by the Committee how Greenhouse gases from food waste account for large portion of Emissions causing Climate Change.

9. D.Laich moved adjournment, John Prins seconded, Unanimous vote to adjourn at 4:57pm.

Submitted by: Vincent Chiochio

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BRANFORD TOWN CLERK