

Branford Clean Energy Ad Hoc Committee Minutes 8/19/24

Present: John Prins, Donna Laich, Sharon Huttner, Eunice Mahler, Shirley McCarthy, Bob Babcock, Mike Cohen, Dan Rabin, Jim Killelea, Tyler Bowne

Absent: Greg Ames, Elena Cahill, Vince Chiochio

Wai Stephens
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

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- Meeting called to order by Chairperson Shirley McCarthy at 4:10 p.m.
- Minutes of 7/15/24 were approved unanimously.
- Tyler Bowne was present and advised that after a couple of months absence he has returned to the Town of Branford and will continue to be a member of the Clean Energy Ad Hoc Committee to the great comfort of all in attendance.
- John discussed energy awareness initiatives involving PACE and the town of Branford. He spoke with Branford's new School Superintendent, Chris Tranberg, and it was decided that a meeting be set up with curriculum school leaders to pursue follow up of the previously adopted formal resolution on climate education.
- With regard to HeatSmart matters, Dan noted that while Branford's HeatSmart program will formally end on 10/31/24, individuals can pursue the advantages of the program thru year end 12/31/24. He indicated 101 had signed up and 29 were income eligible. Dan will be meeting with Ed Sabatino at the Food Bank this week. On the SCRCOG front Dan is also pursuing his idea of involving 5 towns in the HeatSmart project and a data collection plan is being developed. He asked Stephanie to send a letter to the 5 towns describing PACE and she is following up.
- On the HeatSmart commercial side, Bob has sent out 1400 letters to East Haven businesses and received back 20 for a return rate of 1.2%. A letter is on Jamie's desk for approval and then will be sent to Legal for approval and will likely be sent out on 10/30/24.
- Donna noted that Alex Paluzzi has decided to use an EV and several others may be in line for EVs as well since some current vehicles are aged.
- Sharon toured the Business School Bldg. at SCSU which now has a geothermal heat pump. She was told the bldg. now had a zero net energy cost.

- Installation of EV chargers around Branford was discussed with some businesses installing chargers with no charge for their customers. Star apartments has chargers but only for use by their tenants. Public chargers are at Foote Park for public use but charge slowly. Shirley suggested that a list of public chargers should be made. Eunice suggested Greenwich should be contacted as to how they handle their public chargers.
- Sharon asked that the CE meeting start at 4:30. Jim mentioned the Community room we use will not be available in the Fall. All agreed that 4:30 at the Community house would be OK for future meetings.
- Tyler indicated that the Ecology Park Green Bank solar installation should yield a return to Branford of about \$20K per year.
- Shirley reported for Greg: 1. The renovated and expanded Cosgrove animal shelter, completed over a year ago, is still experiencing excessive utility bills due to the omission of the specified mechanical system controls, the Town administration is expected to pursue remediation of the situation. 2. The final drawings for the renovations to the police headquarters have been submitted to the town for owner review in preparation for bidding. Construction is scheduled to start in October.
- At approximately 5:12 Sharon moved that the meeting be adjourned which was seconded by Bob.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Killelea