

GREEN TASK FORCE

MINUTES of August 15, 2011 MEETING

To: Patricia H. Strauss, Town Clerk
Westport, Connecticut

Members Present: Alan Abramson, David Mann, Wendy Batteau, Hal Kendig, Steve Edwards, George Masumian

Members Absent: Cathy Talmadge, Steve Smith, Ken Bernhard, Bruce Haymes (and new student members)

David Mann called the meeting to order and the minutes from the June 20th meeting were approved at 7:10 pm. The July 19th meeting was unofficial due to the lack of a quorum

Alan Abramson gave an update on the progress of the Westport Home Energy Challenge/N2N project. We talked about where there might be clusters of homes that have electric heat or natural gas, given the new limits on funding for oil heated homes in the CT Energy Efficiency Fund. We agreed to check on the funding for the N2N program going forward, given the budget cuts in Washington, DC

Sub-committee membership was finalized (pending the agreement of those who were not in attendance):

- Community Outreach—Wendy, Hal, Cathy, Alan and David
- Residential—Alan and future students
- Business—Steve Edwards, George and David
- Municipal—Wendy and Steve Edwards
- IT—Bruce, Alan, David and Greg Zola

We decided it would be great if the committee members can talk to one another prior to our next meeting (scheduled for September 19th) and discuss leadership and agendas for each committee

Discussed the need to recruit new members. We would especially like a couple of more women to join the task force. We thought about going to the DMA and other friends to help publicize our desire to get some new blood onto the GTF

Jonathan Steinberg presented what is going on with regard to environmental and energy issues in the CT state legislature. Save the Sound, and the good work that CT and NY are doing together was addressed, as well as the possibility of bringing an “ecosystem and estuaries of the Sound” curriculum to the schools. Septic system education was also discussed. The question of pesticides and the stringency of local rules versus state rules (home rule) were reopened. Jonathan requested we take a strong look at Landmark legislation in CT that would create a

Green Bank which would encourage the use of renewables and potentially reduce their cost to ratepayers.

Renewable energy programs, including wind turbines and solar, for Westport public facilities were discussed. In particular a 40.5 Kwh solar panel installation by DCS was mentioned. David and Steve talked about the newer wind turbines and where they might be installed in Westport.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm

Submitted by;
Alan Abramson
David Mann

Co-Chairs