

GREEN TASK FORCE
MINUTES OF January 30th, 2012 MEETING

Present: D Mann, C Foster, R Gershowitz, G Masumian, S Smith, A Abramson (by telephone)
Absent: W Batteau, B Haymes, S Edwards, H Kendig, C Talmadge

D. Mann called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. The December minutes were approved.

D. Mann explained that A. Abramson had stepped down as co-chair. A. Abramson will be remaining on the Task Force and helping spearhead the Residential sub-committee, but we are looking for looking for a vice-chair (or co-chair) of the Task Force.

Doug McDonald gave a presentation on his passive house in Westport. It is planned that this will be the first of the “Sustainable Success Stories” series. He explained how he paid no heat bills whatsoever, and that despite it being extremely hot or cold outside, his house would remain at about 72 steadily. The Task Force discussed how to get it covered from several different angles in news sources such as Westport Now, Patch, Minuteman, and give each a different take on what it means to build and live in an efficient passive house. This would then culminate in an open house. It was suggested that a sustainable energy tour similar to that of the historical society would be launches.

Further on Sustainable Success Stories, the Task Force agreed to return with comments and suggestions about possible angles.

Elektron Solar came to discuss Elm St. and other EV solar charging stations that are pretty far along through sponsorships with a Certified CT clean energy fund installer with office in Westport. There’s currently one woman in Westport that’ll definitely use it, but it regardless of use, the system still saves the town money.

The Task Force passed a motion to endorse the concept of sponsored solar powered EV charging stations in town.

P. Bell Ader updated the Force on the fact that there are now 14 partner organizations with the Westport Home Energy Challenge (N2N) with 4 school PTA's, Earthplace, the Downtown Merchant’s Association, and a few churches. However, there aren’t as many referrals as they originally hoped. Insulation rebates for oil and electric customers have definitely been extended until June, and she believes that natural gas always has them.

D. Mann announced that while he was unable to be on the telephone conference, Cleanwater is spearheading a Fairfield County Regional Clean Energy Meeting on 3/1/12. D. Mann agreed to update us via email, and Westport volunteered in terms of hosting if necessary.

The Task Force agreed that it would continue meeting the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:30p. However, In February this is a holiday and falls on a holiday and during school vacation, so Wednesday the 29th of February was named as the next meeting date.

Under other business, the Task Force discussed the ongoing evaluation and discussions at the Board of Ed regarding oil tank replacement and agreed to be available to assist the Board of Ed should they so desire during this process.

The Task Force discussed changes in state funding for alternative energy programs.

Caroline Foster was elected as Task Force Secretary

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45.

Submitted by:
David Mann
Chair

Caroline Foster
Secretary