

Green Task Force
Minutes of July 30th, 2012 Meeting

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

Members Present: David Mann, Robby Gershowitz, Steve Edwards, George Masumian, Steve Smith, Hal Kendig, Cathy Talmadge

Members Absent: Alan Abramson, Caroline Foster, Bruce Haymes, Wendy Batteau

David Mann called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm.

David Mann reviewed the minutes from the June 18th meeting and they were approved unanimously.

Bob Wall from Solarize CT and Toni Bouchard the Vice President of Smart Power explained the Solar PV program. They talked about the test programs in Massachusetts and Arizona, and how those tests would act as an outline for Solarize CT.

Toni Bouchard said that her company, Smart Power, would provide marketing and facilitation support for Solarize CT. Toni also said that they would begin to select solar installers on August 6th, and the official start of the Solarize CT program would be after Labor Day.

It was strongly suggested by members of the Task Force that a strong attempt to link Solarize CT and the Neighbor to Neighbor Home Energy Challenge be made in hopes of promoting HES sign-ups. Additionally members requested that it be looked in to having solar hot water as part of the Solarize CT program.

Toni Bouchard suggested having public workshops at the Library during Labor Day Week, and suggested having the problem last for 4 months, with the last day to sign a contract on December 14th.

It was asked if Solarize CT had strict municipality boundaries and if homes run by the Department of Human Services were eligible to participate in the program. Both questions were agreed to be looked in to.

The Task Force set a goal for the Solarize CT program of getting 50 homes signed up for solar panels with no less than 200kW of generation potential.

Steve Smith talked about the progress of getting solar panels at the train station and the PPA with Encon.

A representative from Encon then talked about the 28 KW solar panel system including specifics related to maintenance and operation.

The Task Force then unanimously approved to send a letter to ConnDOT, the owner of the train station, endorsing the PPA.

Jessica L'Heureux then talked about the progress with the Neighbor to Neighbor Home Energy Challenge. There have been few sign-ups so far this summer for HES visits, as summer is a slow time for sign-ups. The 1st of 3 Facebook campaigns for Neighbor to Neighbor has started designed for the younger people in town. The campaigns will include Scavenger Hunts and Naming Contests.

David Mann then gave an update on the C-PACE Legislation that was past in June to lower borrowing costs for commercial green energy projects. It was discussed about engaging the RTM in a few months about promoting C-PACE in Westport.

The Task Force then voted for the We Green Awards. Of the 7 nominees, 2 winners were chosen for 2012: John Horkel PhD. and Pippa Bell Ader.

David Mann adjourned the meeting at 9:38 pm.

Submitted by:

David Mann
Chair

Robby Gershowitz
Acting Secretary