

**Green Task Force
Minutes of December 18th, 2012 Meeting**

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

Members Present: David Mann, Robby Gershowitz, George Masumian, Steve Edwards, Pippa Bell Ader, Bruce Haymes, Steve Smith, Zack Pensak

Members Absent: Alan Abramson, Hal Kendig, Wendy Batteau, Cathy Talmadge
Guests: Alex Marroquin (Encon Solar), Penelope Hoblyn, Andrea Cote (SESPTA Green Committee), Jonathan Steinberg (state rep), Madeline Priest (Cleanwater Action)

David Mann called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

The minutes from the November 20th and October 16th meetings were approved unanimously.

Alex Marroquin updated the Task Force on the Solarize Westport program. As of the meeting, approximately 25 houses had been signed up for solar panels totaling 210-215 Kw. Alex said that Westport was currently 2nd place in the competition, and he was confident that we would reach tier 5 pricing by the end of the program, which was extended to end on January 14th.

The Task Force then discussed the Solarize Westport program, and ways that we could encourage people to sign-up towards the end of the program. It was suggested that prominent members of the community write Letters to the Editor, and that we get a story on WestportNow. David Mann announced that the first Solar Raising Party went well, and that there would be a second Solar Raising Party on January 5th, 2013 that would give people a last chance to sign-up after the holidays. Pippa Bell Ader announced that the final calling session for volunteers to call people and tell them that the solar program is ending soon would be on the evening of January 9th, 2013. Pippa also announced that the Library would be doing a solar activity/craft for kids and parents over Winter Break. It was also suggested that after the Solarize program ends, Bruce Haymes could design a post-survey to evaluate the Solarize program.

David Mann then told the Task Force that the First Selectman has suggested that the RTM approve C-PACE for Westport. He also announced that the ZREC deadline was extended and that he wants the Task Force to encourage PPA's around town for municipal and school facilities.

David Mann announced Nancy Harris has requested a follow-up meeting about the solar PPA program for school buildings with Mike Aitkenhead, members of Club Green, and members of the Green Task Force. The Task Force then discussed the options for school energy efficiency specifically the difference between just getting solar panels on some schools versus getting solar panels and efficiency upgrades as proposed by Honeywell. Honeywell had proposed upgrading the efficiency of almost everything at the schools with a ballpark prediction of an annual savings of \$600,000 which would go towards a 15-year loan, with Honeywell paying for all capital improvements. The Task Force suggested that Nancy Harris be presented with both approaches in a side-by-side proposal before making her decision.

Parents from the Saugatuck Elementary School PTA Green Committee then talked with the Task Force about promoting Earth Hour (turn lights off from 8:30-9:30pm, Saturday March 23,2013) in the schools. There was also discussion about efforts by schools to decrease energy use. Pippa had researched the West Hartford program in which the schools compete against each other, and have observed decreased energy use over several years of this competition. She will pass this information on to the PTA Green committee.

Madeline Priest then updated the Task Force on the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Home Energy Challenge. As of the meeting, approximately 665 households or 6.6% of the town had completed a HES visit. Madeline also announced that Westport had raised approximately \$44,000 to spend on environmentally friendly supplies for the town through Neighbor-to-Neighbor. David Mann then announced that there would be an Ice Dams Workshop on January 16th, 2013 at the Library and a Climate Reality Speaker at the Library on February 5th both of which are opportunities for additional HES sign-ups.

The Task Force then talked about the possibility of having monthly environmental speakers/meeting around town in 2013 hosted by local environmental organizations. The lectures would be held at various venues around town, and the Task Force would partner with different organizations with a goal to increase the GTF volunteer base and establish a broader coalition of community organizations.

The Task Force then talked about ways to improve the meetings for the coming year. It was suggested that the Task Force gain more active members and that the Task Force meet outside of meetings at a local restaurant or bar for food and drink. It was also suggested that the Task Force host a party at a local restaurant after the Solarize Westport program ends for all people who participated in the program.

The Task Force then talked about the schedule for meetings next year. It was decided that the meetings would stay at 7:30 p.m., but it was still undecided what day of the week the meetings would occur. It was suggested that we create a Doodle for all members to choose the dates that work best for them.

David Mann adjourned the meeting at 9:19 p.m.

Submitted by:

David Mann
Chair

Robby Gershowitz
Secretary