

**Green Task Force
Minutes of January, 28th 2013 Meeting**

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

Members Present: David Mann, Robby Gershowitz, Steve Edwards, Pippa Bell Ader, Zack Pensak, Jeff Baer

Members Absent: Hal Kendig, Wendy Batteau, Cathy Talmadge, George Masumian, Bruce Haymes, Steve Smith, Ken Bernhard

Guests: Michael Aitkenhead (Club Green/WTF)

David Mann called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

The minutes from the December 18th meeting were approved unanimously over e-mail, due to the fact that there was not a quorum at the meeting.

Pippa Bell Ader and David Mann updated the Task Force on the completion of the Solarize Westport program. At the completion of the program on January 14th, 58 homes had agreed to install solar panels totaling 382 kW. This put Westport at Tier 5 pricing, the highest level in the program. Pippa announced that Encon, the solar provider for the program, wanted to have a party for all the participants in the program in early spring.

David Mann then updated the Task Force on the current status of C-PACE legislation, and the Task Force then discussed ways to implement the legislation in town. The legislation was recently unanimously approved by the RTM, with one modification pending as suggested by the Town Attorney. Westport was one of the eleven towns in the state to date who have elected to participate in the program attempting to provide energy upgrades to commercial businesses in town. The Task Force then reaffirmed their goal of signing up three properties in town by June. It was then suggested that members of the Task Force present C-PACE to members of the Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Merchants Association. It was also suggested that Club Green research and find possible buildings in town that would be suitable for solar panels. The Task Force agreed to contact CEFIA, the organization running the program, and ask them if they had a list of pre-approved contractors, or if the Task Force had to vet possible contractors.

The Task Force then talked about the status of several PPA's around town. Steve Edwards told the Task Force that he had recently put in five small Z-REC proposals for various town facilities. Michael Aitkenhead then told the Task Force that Nancy Harris had said that solar panels would be a problem for Staples because the roofs needed to be replaced in 5-10 years. In order to get solar panels, a contractor needs to be found that can pay to take the solar panels off and back on in several years. The Task Force then discussed the possibility of car parks at Staples, but there were questions regarding snow removal and snow melting. Jeff Baer then talked about Solar City, a group that is working on large scale PPA's around the country, and he suggested that they be invited to the next meeting. The Task Force also talked about the interest of having solar panels at Sherwood Island State Park and the Westport-Weston Health District. David Mann suggested that the RFP for Staples become the priority because of looming deadline in a few weeks.

David Mann then updated the Task Force on the status of the Sustainability Lectures. On January 16th the Ice Dam Talk hosted by by the Task Force and given by David Mann

at the library was modestly successful. The next event will be a speaker from the Climate Reality Project on February 5th at 7pm in the library, with a reception at Bobby Q's for the guest speaker following the presentation. It was suggested that WWPT, the Staples High School radio station, video tape the events and put them online.

Michael Aitkenhead then discussed the possibility of Club Green running at Earth Day Event in April to showcase various environmental groups around town. He also talked about the possibility of creating an online sustainability pledge for Staples, so students could make a pledge and then chart their progress online. Pippa Bell Ader also announced that the Hour of No Power would be held at the schools on March 23rd at 8:30-9:30pm.

The Task Force then discussed the possibility of getting local press to cover the Task Force meetings. The outlets that were suggested included Westport Patch, Westport Now, and the Staples High School newspaper Inklings. The Task Force also suggested that a Board of Education representative and a Board of Finance member attend the next meeting.

The Task Force afterwards discussed what rewards to purchase with points from the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Home Energy Challenge. The rewards that were suggested were solar streetlights, recycling bins, and electric utility vehicle, and electric vehicle charging stations. The electric utility vehicle would be given to the Parks and Recreation Department to use at Longshore, at the solar streetlights might be well suited for the Levitt Pavilion.

David Mann adjourned the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

Submitted by:

David Mann
Chair

Robby Gershowitz
Secretary