

**Green Task Force
Minutes of April 22nd, 2013 Meeting**

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

Members Present: David Mann, Robby Gershowitz, Jeff Baer, George Masumian, Pippa Bell Ader, Steve Edwards, Wendy Batteau

Members Absent: Bruce Haymes, Hal Kendig, Cathy Talmadge, Steve Smith, Zack Pensak

Guests: Kevin Green (Westport Resident), Diana McCarthy-Bercury (Program Administrator for Northeast Utilities), Sev Duvall (Sound Solar Systems)

David Mann called the meeting to order at 7:36pm.

The minutes from the March 27th meeting were approved unanimously,

David Mann and Steve Edwards updated the Task Force on the status of the town's solar RFP and vendor selection process. The town received 4 RFP responses, and 3 respondents had made it through to the interview process, which is currently going on. The proposals all ranged in price, and each proposal had little tweaks associated with it. Solar City had the most aggressive price, but was conservative with the solar potential of the buildings. Solar City was therefore going to work on improving the solar potential that it could get from each building. The approximate savings to the town would be \$14,000-\$15,000 annually. Each company also said that if they were to put solar panels on the school, they would drastically reduce their pricing.

Kevin Green, a Westport resident, then gave the Task Force a brief presentation on Energy Performance Contracting and Power Purchase Agreements. The presentation showed that the proposal for energy savings and a two megawatt system that was proposed by Johnson and Honeywell would save the town approximately \$3.5 million, but if the solar panel system and the energy savings were completed separately, the town would save more money. Following the presentation, Jeff Baer proposed a motion that was approved unanimously that the GTF recommend that the town unbundle the solar panel PPA from the building envelope and core retrofit proposed. And to immediately progress the solar bid leveraging existing solar, rates and bids in process furthermore we recommend any engineering work in conjunction with this project be awarded competitively or born by the proposing developers. The core retrofit can then be independently and subsequently evaluated once the solar solution is decided. The motion was approved unanimously. The Task Force then discussed that going forward they would send the proposal to the First Selectman with a page of background. From there they would suggest having a meeting about bringing the proposal to the Finance Committee for proposal.

David Mann then updated the Task Force on the spending of the Westport Home Energy Challenge rewards points. It was announced that the points projection remains the same, at approximately \$45,000. Steve Edwards, who was in charge with deciding what to purchase, announced that the Task Force would purchase an Electric Vehicle charger at the library, 4 bicycle racks at Town Hall, and Electric Vehicle for the Parks and Recreation Department, and 20 recycling bins located at downtown and at the ballparks around town.

Diana McCarthy-Bercury, the Program Administrator for Northeast Utilities, then gave a presentation on a Clean Energy Municipal Pledge. The program helps Connecticut communities to increase energy efficiency and renewable energy in their town by making a pledge, fulfilling it, and receiving grants towards energy saving projects. The pledge requires a 20% reduction of

the energy levels in Westport by 2018. Through a point system, each year Westport could earn up to \$20,000 in grants. For every 1% of homes in town that get a HES visit 6 points are awarded, for every 1% of rebates redeemed 8 points are awarded, and for every special event 1-10 points are awarded. The easiest way for the town to earn points were through special events, which can go back to January 1st, 2011. The co-pay for oil customers for a HES visit is \$99 through the program, and they will take care of all the postage and printing costs for mailings. The Task Force then discussed the presentation and decided to schedule a second meeting with Diana regarding specifics about the program. It was suggested that one way to earn points would be to tell homeowners who were renovating their house about certain improvements they could make such as changing lights and windows. It was also suggested that for people who already had HES visits, they should be encouraged to go forward.

Robby Gershowitz then updated the Task Force on Westport Greenday on April 28th. Robby had sent an e-mail to the Green Task Force e-mail list encouraging people to attend the events on the 28th, and other environmentally friendly events on the 28th. The events include a beach cleanup at Longshore, activities at the Wakeman Town Farm and Earthplace, kids activities at the Library, and a documentary showing at Town Hall. The Green Task Force will have a table at Earthplace from 12-2pm on the 28th, and will have a poster of Solarize homes and a map of Westport with all of the homes that participated in the program.

The Task Force then briefly discussed other business. Pippa Bell Ader announced that there were 0 HES sign-ups for the previous month. She also announced that the ribbon cutting for the solar panels at the train station went well and received good press. Steve Edwards then talked about a single stream recycling ribbon-cutting ceremony that he had attended. The Task Force then briefly discussed recycling at the schools.

David Mann adjourned the meeting at 9:27pm.

Submitted by:

David Mann
Chair

Robby Gershowitz
Secretary