

WCEI Task Force

Draft Minutes of the meeting held January 29, 2009

Present: Jon Gorham, Jason Morrill, Sheri Cifaldi-Morrill, Andy Danzig, Yuqi Zhang, and Alex Bell

Call to Order

Chairman Gorham called the meeting to order at 7:36p.m.

Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes of December 16, 2008 were reviewed and accepted. Ms. Bogush will investigate the *word.docm* version.

Welcome visitors/new members

No new members were present. A brief discussion took place regarding outreach to students as potential members of the Task Force. Ms. Zhang will investigate. The email list and newspaper will also be used to solicit potential members. Mr. Morrill will follow up.

Brainstorm – Marketing Efforts for CT Clean Energy Options Sign Ups

Discussion took place regarding the dual missions of the Task Force ~ signing up more households and providing education.

Earth Day tri-town contest

Mr. Bell will spearhead the contest with help from Ms. Zhang. They will let the Task Force know what help is needed. Discussion took place on last year's event, specifically what to keep and what to change. The contest theme was considered and the importance of it being clear emphasized. Multiple modes will be allowed (i.e. video, written description, model, etc.). Ms. Zhang will contact Bethany and Orange regarding their participation, the theme, the location, and prizes. The plan is to piggy-back on Bethany's Earth Day event. The budget, prize structure and judging criteria were further discussed. There will be prizes for residents of each town in the categories of high school, middle school, and elementary ages (3 prizes per town, 9 altogether). Mr. Bell will do a first draft of the contest criteria and language describing the theme. Task Force members will email ideas to Mr. Bell. Discussion took place on advertising the event using school distribution and the newspapers. Mr. Gorham will speak to Beecher. Ms. Zhang and Mr. Bell will meet with Dr. Brinton. Discussion on adding a bonus prize for the most sign ups was tabled.

Green Team House Warming – Pot Luck dinners

Mr. Gorham's talk was rescheduled to 2/18/09. He has two potential "guinea pig" houses for a blower door demonstration. At his talk he will ask people to sign up for a green team house warming (5 max) with 4 neighbors who come and listen. The team will then return to the house and do some of the interventions. Mr. Gorham will commit to doing 3 personally as well as help train other people. Discussion took place regarding using some of the Task Force's budget to have a professional blower door company to come do the

two houses and video tape the demonstrations. Each house would pay \$150 (usually, \$300, to be subsidized by the Task Force). A DVD can be made and used on air as well as to go around and show people. Securing an in-kind gift and having the blower door company do a free audit of a low income home was considered. Mr. Gorham stressed the importance of getting out the word regarding energy conservation first and letting people know the technology exists. Discussion regarding companies providing the service took place. Mr. Gorham will compile the information.

The Town Database of Green Households – Jason’s map

Discussion took place regarding the difficulty of obtaining the information on households signed up. Mr. Gorham will make some calls to try and expedite the process.

The Speaker Series

Mr. Morrill reported on his ideas for the speaker series schedule noting the January talk was rescheduled to Feb 18 due to weather (Green Teams/House Warming). Tentatively he is thinking:

March 24: green renovations or wind power

June 3: solar PV or food (city seed)

August 26: geothermal heating or recycling

Oct. 21: energy policy or something not yet discussed at a previous meeting (see above list)

Another potential topic is “religion and ecology”. Mr. Morrill will arrange the speakers and update the Task Force accordingly. Mr. Danzig will help arrange the recycling speaker.

Beecher Road School

Mr. Gorham reported things have been held up by meeting postponements due to weather and concerns raised by a BOE member regarding the roof. Discussion followed. A meeting is needed with the roofing engineer, the project architect, the state, and the Renovation Committee. Once a plan of action is developed, two RFP’s will be issued ~ one for 2 kilowatts the other for 5 kilowatts. Mr. Gorham is frustrated by the lack of progress and will report again at the next Task Force meeting.

Amity Regional High School

Mr. Gorham reported things are proceeding regarding securing 2 kilowatts. He will follow up with Mr. [Wall](#)

Massaro Farm project

Mr. Morrill reported on a \$50,000 matching grant to do renovations on the dairy barn, noting about \$30,000 of in-kind has been raised already. Mr. Morrill hopes to renovate the dairy barn, stone barn, and house in 2009. He will push for energy conservation in the renovations (geothermal in the house, radiant floor heating in the dairy barn, rain water collection, solar hot water, and maybe solar PV). The Massaro Farm project is moving forward. Mr. Morrill continues to make contacts, has posted the oral history on youtube, and updated the website. He also attended NOFA’s winter program on Community Farming.

Other business

Ms. Cifaldi-Morrill reached out to Children's librarian who is supportive of WCEI co-sponsoring a program for children ages 4-8 on Saturday, April 11 at 11am. Ms. Cifaldi-Morrill is happy to lead the program ~ anyone interested in assisting her should be in touch. The library will publicize the program and WCEI will use the email list for further promotion. Library events typically have 12-15 (and their parents) in attendance.

Mr. Danzig suggested the Task Force sponsor another movie. Mr. Morrill has been in contact with Patricia Valsecchi to try and fit WCEI into the movie night schedule. "Who Killed the Electric Car" was suggested as a movie.

Ms. Cifaldi-Morrill reported Stepping Stones is closer to having a traveling tour ready to go into schools. Her invitation to visit the exhibit is still open.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting date is Thursday, February 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aimee Cotton Bogush
Administrative Assistant