

Draft Minutes
WCEI Task Force Meeting
Thursday May 28, 2009 at Town Hall 7:30 PM

Present: Chairman Jon Gorham, Jason Morrill, Sheri Cifaldi-Morrill, Alex Bell, and Sharon deKadt

Minutes: Reviewed and approved the April 30th meeting minutes

Tri-Town Energy Contest – Earth Day Awards

Discussion took place regarding the Tri-Town Energy Contest. Billing and reimbursement were considered; Jason and Sheri have been reimbursed. Woodbridge will invoice Bethany and Orange (approximately \$300 per town). All of the prizes were awarded. Certificates of Participation will be delivered this weekend. Winners will be posted on the website with photos of projects.

Lessons learned from this project include obtaining teacher input from the beginning, possibly incorporating it with the BRS ecology unit.

Fall contest

Mr. Gorham explained the "350" concept proposed by author Bill McKibben. Discussion took place regarding participating in the 350 World Event on October 24, 2009. **To do:** think of project ideas including a potential contest.

New Members (High School)

Mr. Bell reported he has contacted the guidance counselors and they are keeping an eye out, although this has not been successful at generating new members. The Guidance director recommended including a blurb in the Friday newsletter to recruit people. It was decided to do so. The Task Force would also like a booth at the September club day. It was noted the Middle School and BRS are starting Global Warming Clubs, and one may also form in at the Bethany Middle School.

June 3rd Speakers' Series

The next event is Wednesday, June 3rd at 7 p.m. at the Woodbridge Library. Mr. Morrill reported City Seed will come and talk about buying local vs. long distance. They are sending their Director of Marketing and an intern. Yale Sustainability has also been contacted for future events. The next series event is coming up in August. Discussion followed on the topic areas and potential speakers.

Beecher Road School Updates

Mr. Gorham reported BRS looks like a great candidate for the geothermal according to CT Clean Energy. BRS is thinking of adding air conditioning and a geothermal system provides both heating and cooling. A grant is possible to create BRS as a model for the state.

Mr. Gorham updated the Task Force on the progress of the BRS renovation committee including the controversy over mounting the solar PV. Due to project delays, the state is now providing one less array. The Town of Woodbridge will pay for a metal stand and one array. The town

will have to go out to bid for the rack. Discussion took place on incorporating the project into the curriculum as well as the importance of meeting grant deadlines.

Massaro Farm Update

Mr. Morrill reported the dairy barn renovation is starting in the next few weeks. The \$50,000 grant will be spent on making the building structurally sound and weather tight. Jim Urbano is the general contractor, donating his time. It is hoped the barn will be done by the fall. Field #6 will be tilled and a cover crop planted this spring and fall to ready it for planting next spring. Preliminary sketches for work on the house are in the works. A hazard assessment may be done due to lead paint and asbestos shingles. The renovation will incorporate energy efficiency. A call is being put out for donations. Regarding 501c3 status, the IRS has the paperwork and a determination is expected this summer or fall. Solicitations are scheduled to go out soon. Major donors will be identified and pursued.

The Conservation Commission may do another walk-through. A \$100,000 USDA grant application has been submitted and received. An appropriations request for \$490,000 is pending. Rosa DeLauro is coming to the Woodbridge Library on June 6th and it is hoped she will tour the farm afterward.

Amity RHS Photovoltaics update

Mr. Gorham reported the legal agreements have been finalized according to Tony Genovese. Things are moving forward. Mr. Gorham will talk to Bob Wahl regarding the time frame.

Other Business

Mr. Morrill is still trying to secure a movie night at library, possibly King Corn. Suggestions are requested.

Discussion took place on Sandy Stein's idea for a broadening local community sustainability effort including a commission or committee. More information is needed. Ms. Bogush will investigate and report back on the differences between committees/commissions/and task forces.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, June 16th at 7:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Aimee Cotton Bogush