

Woodbridge Clean Energy Initiative Task Force

Draft Minutes of meeting held Tuesday June 16, 2009 at Town Hall at 7:30 PM.

Present: Chair John Gorham, Sandy Stein, Jason Morrill, Sheri Cifaldi-Morrill, Andy Danzig, Alex Bell, and Sharon deKadt.

To follow up on a question from the last meeting, Ms. Stein was asked to explain the difference between a task force, committee, and a commission. Procedurally they are similar -- following Robert's Rules and adhering to FOI guidelines for posting agendas and minutes. A commission is part of the town's charter. Ms. Stein suggests exploring this task force becoming a possible "sustainability commission" to integrate all the different groups that share the goal of sustainability. Discussion followed on issues of reducing overlap and integrating other groups as well as the practicality of time concerns. Mr. Morrill can see this task force turning into the sustainability commission. Ms. Stein noted a commission can form committees to do the work to address the priorities. The plan is to think about it over the next few months and try drafting a charge.

Minutes: After review, the minutes of the May 28, 2009 meeting were accepted.

Updates:

New Members

High School representatives

Mr. Bell reported Ms. Zhang has received several emails expressing interest after an "ad" was placed in the High School Highlights. Discussion followed on requesting a paragraph explaining their interest as well as holding brief interviews. Mr. Bell suggests asking candidates what skills/talents they can bring to the task force.

Ms. deKadt and Mr. Gorham will investigate possibly having a 5th or 6th grader from Beecher Road School participate on the task force.

Adult

Mr. Gorham requests the task force members commit to asking at least one other person to join the task force. Mr. Morrill reminded the group to be specific in what is asked when seeking volunteers. Ms. Stein suggests making a list of the things/events for which people can sign up to help. Mr. Gorham will put together the list.

Beecher Road School

Mr. Gorham explained the delay regarding solar PV and the outcome of that delay -- the loss of an array. Ms. Stein asked if there is another grant to fund another array. Mr. Gorham explained there has been stimulus bill money given to Connecticut for PV solar thermal and geothermal. He described how New Haven has been smart about accessing these funds and how this might be done similarly at Beecher. Mr. Gorham suggested there is a potential to use BRS as a model, integrating PV, doing geothermal using the wells to heat and condition air, and going for LEEDS certification. Alternative funding options exist and he is disappointed by a reluctance to take these options seriously. Having the architects from the New Haven projects and/or a representative of Gilbane speak to the building committee was discussed. A question of LEEDS certification for retrofits was considered.

PV on the Amity Regional HS

Mr. Gorham reported he has not heard much since Mr. Wahl said he was awaiting the legal document. The Town of Woodbridge has signed off on everything. Ms. Stein questioned why there isn't someone from Amity following up. Mr. Bell will talk to the superintendent.

Ideas for Oct 24 International + Climate Change Day

Mr. Morrill shared what other area groups are planning on www.350.org. It was noted this is an opportunity for the community to come together. Ideas for an event in Woodbridge were discussed as were groups with which to collaborate. Encouraging ownership of the event was discussed. Mr. Gorham suggested the task force look at some of the international activities on 350.org and requested that any ideas for Woodbridge be written up and emailed to him by June 30th. The goal is to have a final idea for the next meeting and to share that with any potential partners.

Speaker's Series

The topic for the August speaker is solar. Ideas for the presentation were shared. Mr. Morrill and Ms. Cifaldi-Morrill will be away. Mr. Danzig and Ms. deKadt will work together to host. Ideas for future talks were discussed including using Bill McKibben's speech and having a talk on what recent policy changes mean to us.

Massaro Farm update

Mr. Morrill reported that Mr. Gorham has become an official board member for the Massaro Farm. The board is pursuing grants and federal appropriations. Mr. Morrill explained one in particular focuses on renovating and retrofitting for energy efficiency and how that would work on the farm. Work continues to be done to compile a list of manufacturers for gifts in kind. A membership campaign has begun. The next big task is to form the CSA organization that will hire the farmer, do the farming, and sell the produce. Mr. Morrill explained there will be two entities -- one to restore the farm and work on education and one to do the business of the farm. The Conservation Commission will hold another walking tour in July. A presentation will be given at the BOS at the next meeting. Mr. Morrill is looking to find people who might sit on the board of the CSA and requests suggestions. The Massaro Farm website is worth a visit. Rosa DeLauro's visit was discussed. Mr. Morrill is grateful for her having been so generous with her time. She seemed genuinely interested in the project.

Other Business

It was noted the Town has signed up for a 3-year extension on its purchase of renewable sources. We might be the only town having done so. Discussion took place on getting the word out in a press release as well as encouraging other towns to follow suit.

The **next meeting** is scheduled for Thursday, July 16th at 7:30 p.m. in the town hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Aimee Cotton Bogush