

Clean Energy Task Force
Meeting Minutes

Date: February 18, 2015

Location: City of Middletown
Municipal Building
Room 208

Re: City of Middletown
Clean Energy Task Force
Meeting No. 109

Attendees: Jennifer Kleindienst
Peter Staye
David Bauer
Augie DeFrance
John Hall
Larry Chatfield

Absent: Tom Serra
Jeff Pugliese
Audrey J. Scotti
Dmitri D'Alessandro

Bob Dobmeier, Staff

Tina Gomes, Staff

The meeting opened at 12:30 P.M. The minutes for the January 21, 2014 Clean Energy Task Force meeting were approved unanimously. David Bauer suggested that we include a section or agenda item in future meetings for Public Comment, and all generally concurred. Bob will add this item on future agendas.

Jennifer Kleindienst opened up the meeting by reporting on the responses for the need or opportunity to change the meeting schedule. As there was no firm consensus on a day of the week or time that everyone on the task force could regularly and conveniently meet, the meeting schedule will continue to be for the third Wednesday of the month, at 12:30 P.M.

John Hall gave an update on the projects that he has been working on:

- John reported that overall, citywide electricity rates have been fairly stable over the past year, according to his recent analysis. Some of the fixed distribution costs have gone up and other variable costs have gone down through CL&P/Eversource, but our generation rate is much less than what is being offered currently by the utility or other electric generators. With this and conservation measures, some of the best City facilities are down significantly; as much as 15% from what they were in previous years. In addition to this, CL&P/Eversource have reclassified some of our accounts to a better (less costly) rate structure based on current usage and demand.
- The fuel cell at the Middletown High School is getting close to the end of its useful life cycle but likely has a few years more before it will need to be shut down. The city investigated options to reinstall new cell stacks but it doesn't appear to be cost effective. As requested at the previous task force meeting, Bob and John reported on their meeting with Richard Ogurick of Ameresco, at CJTS on February 12th. There seems to be a good

opportunity for the City to receive parts from the now dormant fuel cells at CJTS; as the 200 kW units there are similar and some of the parts should be interchangeable. The units at CJTS have been shut down, after about 80,000 hours and will be dismantled sometime this year. The unit at the High School has about 40,000 hours (they were both rated for 40,000 hours). John will be working with BOE, Ameresco and Doosen Energy to see if and how this work can be accomplished.

- The City will be purchasing RECs again for the upcoming year. The cost is \$2,276.43 for the required minimum purchase amount as discussed and approved at the last task force meeting. The contract has been reviewed by legal and a Purchase Order is being requested for this item. This will leave a balance of approximately \$2,700 in this account.

Jennifer Kleindienst reported that the current Home Energy Solutions program is changing slightly and recommended to have our partners, John Greeno of New England Conservation Services, and Raquel Kennedy, from Victory Energy Solutions, attend a future meeting to explain the new program. It was mutually agreed that they will be invited to the next regularly scheduled meeting in March for this purpose.

Jennifer Kleindienst updated the members on the Solarize Wesleyan program that was initiated recently. On February 4th and 5th, the program was launched with open meetings with Wesleyan employees. Approximately 65 people showed initial interest in the program and about half of those are actively getting quotes for installation of solar arrays on their residences. Jen and/or Peter will keep the task force updated on this item.

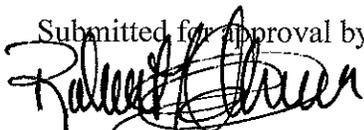
Augie DeFrance presented an article that he saw in Hartford Business.com concerning NRG Home Solar and a new promotion that provides for bonus incentives toward education related expenses for appointments and installation of solar arrays within the New England states. NRG is a national energy company, with operations in Middletown, and is working with Upromise and Sallie Mae on this program.

An in depth discussion on the City's Energy plan was conducted by the members of the task force. Target and focus groups as well as partners to institute priority sections of the plan will be important. Also, incentives for home owner efficiency projects are considered a continuing process. Public outreach and publicizing the successes of the task force over the past 10 years should also be conveyed. Offsite meeting to include other interested parties could be done in the future. New projects that are undertaken by the task force should also include a connection to local economies and jobs. Jennifer summed up this session by stating that the near term focus of the energy plan and the task forces goals should be centered on City residents/home owner's efficiency programs and the development of stewardship teams throughout the community.

In other business; Jennifer passed around a flyer from the Town of Hampton announcing a Clean Energy Fair that they are hosting in March of this year. Also, Bob Dobmeier announced that he is planning on retiring from city service during the current calendar year.

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 P.M. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18, 2015, to be held at the Municipal Building at 12:30 PM.

Submitted for approval by:



Robert J. Dobmeier
Dep. Director of Public Works