

**Green Task Force**  
**Minutes of September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Meeting**

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

**Members Present:** David Mann, Robby Gershowitz, Steve Edwards, Cathy Talmadge, Hal Kendig, Zack Pensak

**Members Absent:** Alan Abramson, Bruce Haymes, Wendy Batteau, Steve Smith, George Masumian

David Mann called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm. Approval for the minutes for the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting were postponed until they could be received from Caroline Foster.

The motion proposed by Hal Kendig to promote Robby Gershowitz from Acting Secretary to full Secretary was approved unanimously.

Pippa Bell Ader then updated the Task Force on the status of the Westport Home Energy Challenge. Pippa said that the summer season had been slow, but more people are now getting HES visits as a result of the Solarize program. Additionally Coleytown Elementary, Saugatuck, and Kings Highway were all going to promote HES visits at their respective back-to-school nights. To date, the HES program had reached only 7% of homes in Westport, but the Solarize program will be a big push to get more sign-ups.

Steve Edwards briefly talked about the neighborhoods around town that had recently had natural gas installed. These areas are: Bayberry near Dorchester, Acorn and Clover, around 100 Hillandale, and Cross Highway near Bedford.

David Mann then talked about Clean Water, and the help that the Task Force could get for future projects. It was decided that the three main things the Task Force would request help with were: Water Quality, group buys for efficiency upgrades, and C-PACE.

David Mann updated the Task Force that working on C-PACE take some time through the fall and possibly early winter while and involve the the RTM and the First Selectman, who had endorsed the program in concept.

The Task Force then talked about locations around town where solar panels could be installed through PPAs at no cost on town facilities. The Task Force listed the following locations as possible buildings for solar panels: Wakeman Town Farm, Bedford, Staples, the Transfer Station, Long Lots, the Library and the Police Station.

Michael Aitkenhead then talked about the possibility of getting solar panels at Staples. It was suggested that the area include Bedford, and the Wakeman Town Farm. The Task Force then recommended forming an ongoing working group for this solar panel project. The Task Force then had an open debate on the issue, and it was decided that the project would not go further until the Task Force received the electric bills from the school.

David Mann and Glenn Cucinell then talked about the Solarize Program. David Mann first updated the Task Force on the September 11<sup>th</sup> kick-off event. 100 people attended

the event, where 35 people immediately signed-up for consultations. Approximately 120 people had signed-up so far, and already 1 contractual been signed.

Glenn Cucinell then told the Task Force that Encon would give \$100 to the host organization of an event for each completed installation, and \$50 per completed installation for canvassing. He also reiterated that Encon would not pay for tree removal or roof repairs related to solar panel installations, but they might subcontract people to do the work and include these cost as part of the installation (in addition to base pricing). Glenn told the Task Force that approximately 8% to 10% of sign-ups lead to contracts, and it takes approximately 400 sign-ups to get 40 contracts. He expects additional modules would be delivered by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Pippa Bell Ader then told the Task Force of future events to promote Solarize Westport: the Solar Home Tour on October 6<sup>th</sup>, the Environmental Debate at Earthplace on October 9<sup>th</sup>, the Fall Family Fiesta at the Y on October 14<sup>th</sup>, and a panel at the Maker Space.

David Mann adjourned the meeting at 9:36 pm.

Submitted by:

David Mann  
Chair

Robby Gershowitz  
Secretary