

**Green Task Force  
Minutes of November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Meeting**

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

**Members Present:** David Mann, Robby Gershowitz, George Masumian, Steve Edwards, Pippa Bell Ader, Bruce Haymes (By Phone)

**Members Absent:** Alan Abramson, Steve Smith, Hal Kendig, Wendy Batteau, Zack Pensak, Cathy Talmadge

David Mann called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

The minutes from the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting were suggested to be approved at the next meeting, as there was not a quorum at the meeting.

David Mann announced to the Task Force that Pippa Bell Ader had recently been confirmed as an official Green Task Force member. David also introduced Jeff Baer and announced that he will soon ask the First Selectman to appoint Jeff as a member as well.

David Mann then updated the Task Force on the current status of the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Home Energy Challenge. David said that the Task Force is continuing to push people to get HES visits through the Solarize program, and will make Neighbor to Neighbor a main focus after the Solarize program ends. David announced that there will be a talk at the Library on January 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm regarding ice dams, and another talk at the Library in early February by Lew Blaustein from the Climate Reality Project. As of November 20<sup>th</sup>, Westport remained in good standing and had 647 HES visits completed since the program started.

David Mann then briefly updated the Task Force on his talk with Clean Water Action requesting support with gaining more active Green Task Force members and helping with C-PACE. David then announced that the Task Force was approved to receive help, and has been actively working with Justin Haaheim of CWA.

David Mann then updated the Task Force on the status of Solarize Westport, that as of November 20<sup>th</sup>, 72Kw had been converted out of over 200 leads generated, with a conversion rate of approximately 5%. Pippa then announced that there would be call days in the following weeks to make calls to explain the Solarize program to homeowners who had previously expressed interest. David also announced that he had contacted CEFIA, and has asked for an extension of the program due to the time lost during Superstorm Sandy. Pippa then announced that a few press and media articles were being written on the Solarize program.

The Task Force then had a discussion on if the Solarize Westport program was receiving enough media coverage. The Task Force then recommended that a reporter should cover the Green Task Force meetings, preferably a writer from the Staples High School newspaper Inklings. The Task Force also proposed writing letters to the editor about how the citizens must act quickly before the Solarize Westport program ends. The Task Force also discussed if the solar provider for Solarize Westport, Encon, was working as effectively as possible on the Solarize program. It was agreed that David and Pippa would speak with Bill Valus, one of Encon's owners about the program and improving performance going forward.

The Task Force then talked about what they should do to continue interest in solar around town after the Solarize program ends. It was suggested to create a survey regarding the Solarize program, and mail it to all the people who took part in the program. It was also suggested that Club Green interview people on why they did not follow through with the Solarize program. The point of this follow up is to evaluate the group purchase model as a strategy for sustainability initiatives going forward.

Eric, from the Electric Vehicle Club in Westport, then addressed the meeting on his proposal to only allow electric cars to park in the charging stations at the Saugatuck Train Station. Eric also talked about possibly creating designated spots around town for electric vehicles, priority on a wait list for electric vehicles, and reserved spots at the beach and downtown for electric vehicles in order to encourage people to purchase electric cars.

There was then a “sense of the meeting” by the Task Force to recommend that the town enact policy that limits parking at the electric vehicle charging stations at the Saugatuck Train Station to electric vehicles and to issue permits for such parking on the following basis: 1<sup>st</sup> to existing electric vehicle owners with train station permits on a lottery basis. 2<sup>nd</sup>, if spaces/permits remain, to offer these “premium” parking space to current train station parking permit holders who decide to purchase an electric vehicle and transfer their parking permit to said vehicle on a first come, first served basis for a limited period of time (e.g. 30 days). 3<sup>rd</sup>, spaces/permits remain, to open these spaces on a first come, first served basis for a limited time to people on the train station parking permit waiting list who currently own electric vehicles. Lastly, if spaces/permits remain, to open these spaces on a first come, first served basis for a limited time to people on the train station parking permit waiting list who decide to purchase an electric vehicle on a first come, first served basis going forward.

David Mann then updated the Task Force on the C-PACE legislation, that the First Selectman’s office likes the proposal, and that he would be meeting with the First Selectman on November 28<sup>th</sup> regarding C-PACE around town. David then suggested a goal for the Task Force that by June 1<sup>st</sup> C-PACE could get approved, and have 3 Westport properties in the pipeline for C-PACE improvements.

David Mann then talked to the Task Force about financing microgrants. The Task Force would be willing to give a few grants between \$200-\$500 to finance sustainability initiatives in Westport. It was suggested that this opportunity be put in the Staples High School newspaper so interested people could get in contact with the Task Force.

The Task Force then discussed Town PPA’s and the Solarize Staples program. Mike Aitkenhead, Robby Gershowitz, and Zack Pensak would go to the next Board of Education meeting to present the proposal, and would suggest having a private meeting with Nancy Harris. The Task Force suggested getting 3 competitive bids from solar providers to compare prices. The Task Force also asked Mike Aitkenhead to look into how much money the town would save annually from the solar panel system.

David Mann adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

David Mann  
Chair

Robby Gershowitz  
Secretary