

**Durham Clean Energy Task**

**Meeting Minutes**

***March 1, 2010***

**Attendees:**

Jen Muir  
Ralph Chase  
Rebecca Fowler  
Sue Michael  
Paul Griese  
Lorrie Martin

**Community Grant Program**

Funds are still available for programs that would promote clean energy/clean energy sign ups . Task force can solicit projects from the community to raise awareness and encourage sign-ups. Other town's have given away light bulbs as part of their programs. Total program funds are \$5,000. Projects can be as small as \$250, and as large as \$2,000. One project can be funded at a time.

The first step in this process will be to advertise the program. The program could be advertised in the Town Times and on the town website. Advertisement should include rules and program guidelines, and links to forms that are on the CCEF website.

Ralph will see if Katharine would be willing to work with Paul to develop the advertisement and post in newspaper and website. Paul will work with Katharine on this task. The deadline could be set for mid-April or early May.

**Earth Day Concert**

Committee could have a table/booth at the Earth day Concert at the high school on April 22<sup>rd</sup> (Thursday).

- 6-7pm tables set up in the lobby with environmental themes
- Sue can have students hand out our information including sign-up forms. Rebecca also volunteered to stand at the booth.
- Sue is coordinating the event and can continue to provide details on timing of the event.
- Booth/table would require CETF sign, sign-up forms, and educational material (all left over from the fair).

- Jen H and Sue have sign-up forms and educational material. Sue will check on what she has left from the fair. Jen H has the decals.
- Booth space will be free
- Sue recommended that we use a thermometer to display showing the number of sign-ups. Jen H may have the thermometer poster/display that could be used as this event.

### **Meetings**

May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting will be at the Town hall. Jen M. will reserve to town hall room for that meeting.

### **Town Energy Plan**

Jen M sent the draft of the Town Energy Plan to Laura Francis in the first week in February. There has not been any response or comments on the plan yet. However, Jen M. has called Laura to follow-up. With the plan the committee also recommended that a separate committee be formed to pursue the goals of the plan, or that Town staff members join the CETF in order to work on the programs recommended in the plan.

Jen M will continue to follow-up with Laura and discuss the best way to move forward with the energy management plan.

### **Benchmarking**

Jen M will check with Laura Francis again to confirm that her son has entered the Town's data into the EPA's portfolio manager program. Paul corresponded with Laura over email and she provided him with the login name and password to the portfolio manager program. Paul will provide the group with the username and password via email. It may also be useful to provide the results of the portfolio manager program to the public.

### **Committee Members**

Jen M will ask Laura again if the committee can advertise in the Town Times for new members. Jen M has not heard back from previous requests.

Jen H is pursuing new members for the Middlefield CETF and would like to continue to collaborate with the Durham CETF.

### **CCEF Communities Program**

Jen M has contacted the CCEF in order to understand the specific details of the communities program. Three requirements must be met in order for Durham to be considered a "Clean Energy Community":

- Purchase 13% clean energy purchase in 2010
- Commit to EPA community energy challenge (Durham has completed this)
- Achieve 100 points /clean energy sign-ups (Durham has 99 as of December 2009)

Jen M has contacted various companies to determine the options and costs for completing the clean energy purchase. The Town currently has a power purchase agreement with Integrys. However renewable energy/RECs cannot be purchased through them based on this contract. RECs could be purchased from Community Energy. Details from Community Energy:

- Costs are based on estimated annual energy usage of town buildings (487 MWH) that was provided by the broker who set up the power purchase agreement (Bay State Consultants)
- Minimum purchase of 13% in 2010 = 63MWH
- 63 MWH falls within the small business/residential rate is \$25/MWH, total cost \$1,600
- The small commercial rate is for purchases >500MWH (total annual town usage ~487MWH), the rate is \$3/MWH
- If the town purchased 500MWH (~100% clean energy purchase)total annual cost = ~\$1,500

Based on this pricing it is nearly the same price for the town to purchase RECs accounting for 13% clean energy or 100% clean energy.

It may be possible for the RECs purchased in excess of the 13% could be used to offset the school district energy usage.

In order to achieve obtain the free solar panel system from the CCEF, there is a 2kW minimum, which requires 200 points, or 200 sign-ups. In order to meet this the Town of Durham can join with Middlefield and combine their points/sign-ups. Middlefield has 72 sign-ups as of December 2009. Middlefield would also have to meet the other requirements (commit to EPA challenge and make clean energy purchase).

Jen M will pass this information on to Beth Moncata and Laura Francis.

Jen M will talk to Jen H regarding Middlefield's status. Rebecca will also get in touch with Jen H regarding Middlefield's status.

### **2010 Committee Initiatives**

Lorrie has recommended that the committee find a way to connect the public with experts or information that would help Durham residents

Paul is aware of the Passive Haus program or initiative that builds and retrofits zero energy homes. Paul has provided Lorrie with contact information and Lorrie will pursue these contacts to initiate up public meetings or forums.

### **Next Meeting**

April 5<sup>th</sup> in the library

Invite Laura Francis and discuss the following:

- Request Town representative on committee – possibly Dick Mcmanus

- Inquire as to how to get new members – there was a three year rotation in original charter
- Update on EPA Portfolio Manager
- Renewable energy purchase or REC purchase

Earth day concert update from Sue

Follow-up on items from tonight's meeting.