

Minutes
Chester Clean Energy Team
November 19 2018

Members: Pat Woomer, Sandy Prisloe, Rick Holloway, Peter Harding, Ed Meehan, Lauren Gister* (ex officio) (*= not in attendance)

The E-Team meeting was called to order at 9.05 a.m.

Audience of Citizens — None

Approval of minutes. The minutes of the Oct 15th regular meeting were approved.

CES Install status

Installation of equipment on roof is complete. Work on inverters remains to be done. **Ed** will get an update from James G, then will speak to **Lauren** to complete negotiations. The town had paid for up to 12k\$ for tree work, but it appears that more tree work is being asked for than was included in the original estimate.

Feedback on “no bid” responses to RFQ for reinstallation of former CES solar array on firehouse.

Chris Lenda (Aegis) will reportedly honor his original estimate of 15k\$ for this job.

Ed will speak with those firms to whom the RFQ was issued to determine why none of them bid on the re-installation.

Panels and roof racks are stored outside at the Town Garage. We do not know the location of the Inverters. **Ed** will speak to Lauren to ensure that this equipment is adequately protected to conserve its resale value. Once a clear direction is established, the E-Team will investigate sale of the old system.

Consideration of proposing full roof PPA project for the Fire House

New “virtual Net Metering” provisions make it desirable to pursue as large a system as can be accommodated on the Firehouse roof. **Peter** will research what companies other than Greenskies would be able to provide PPAs for a full-scale system.

Pat will contact the Board of Fire Commissioners as well as the Fire Chief in order to ensure that such an installation has the support of these organizations.

It will be necessary for the town engineers to update the structural study, from several years ago, to determine what measures must be taken to reinforce that portion of the roof which was considered weaker than the rest of the roof. **Lauren** to arrange for this.

Lessons learned from the Sustainability Fair and distribution of additional bulbs

Attendance was light, though steady. October was a good time for this fair. Although the event was publicized in many places, additional advertising for a future event of this type might include a banner downtown, and wider use of posters and sandwich boards. The offer of free bulbs and a number of free Home Energy Solutions audits was certainly a draw. Interest in the other exhibits, such as rain barrels, environmentally friendly planting, and the general subject of sustainability was somewhat lighter. If we plan to hold a similar event in the next two years, planning must start very early.

The additional LED bulbs acquired for distribution can only go to Chester residents, and not to commercial or industrial uses. **Pat** will so inform the town officials who will oversee the distribution of these.

Bulb swap and Sustainability Fair, continued

Rick will speak to Mia (Home Energy Solutions) for ideas on obtaining testimonials from those who signed up for HES audits. Endorsements could be included in an article in Chester Events.

Streetlight Maintenance Program Status

This project is still not complete. As part of the contract, Tanko was to have reconciled the results of their final inventory with that done by Eversource, and Chester was to have received copies of both inventories. We have never received the promised detailed GPS-based inventory from Tanko, and the Eversource inventory is clearly in error as the town continues to be billed for High Pressure Sodium streetlights which we can see have been converted to LEDs. In addition, although we are paying Tanko to be the call center for repair needs, they are not providing any service. **Sandy** will speak to Lauren first, then will expedite Debra Halgren of Tanko to provide the inventory lists. **Pat** will develop a “bullet list” to discuss with **Lauren** regarding what the Energy Team needs to have her pursue to get these and other hanging projects moving forward.

Phase 2 LED installation.

This effort will be resumed once Scott Mills becomes available; he is presently working full-time for the town crew.

EPA Portfolio access and distribution of data.

Sandy and Rick need to get this rolling again.

POCD writeup of Energy Team accomplishments.

The list of accomplishments has been developed, and only lacks quantitative data to demonstrate energy and/or \$ savings. **Rick** to investigate what can be done to fill this list.

Clarification of the “carry over list.”

See the list on the next page.

Adjournment: 10:20 AM

Next meeting 9:00 AM Monday, **December 10, 2018**
R.P Holloway

_(Note: # indicates an action item carried over from a previous meeting)

~~# **Fire Chief** will obtain specific quotes for replacement of the Firehouse boilers. Complete.~~

~~# **Ed** will draft a letter for **Lauren** to send to CT Water Co to see if they have any interest in partnering for a PV installation on their property near High Meadow Road. [this is complex because the Water Company is a public utility.] Delete. The DEEP no longer supports this.~~

~~# **Energy Star Certification**: will be addressed at a future meeting. Delete, criteria have changed.~~

~~# Tyler Bruns of American Merchant Services offered to send a proposal for them to be the supplier of electricity to the town, similar to what the town now buys through CCM. This could involve a fixed-price contract for up to 4 years. He left a draft of a letter of authorization which would allow AMS to obtain electrical use information from Eversource. Delete, no longer relevant.~~

The following items will continue to be listed:

Pat will inquire what Region 4 is doing to follow electrical costs. *continue*
Complete pending confirmation that ES will fill this data.

Lauren is looking into reports on an old Small Cities Grant which was apparently never completely used up. The manager of Cherry Hill complex wants to use this towards needed upgrades there. It is possible that there is enough left in the grant to permit energy efficiency upgrades by other Chester residents as well. *Continue*.

Lauren will have an electrician deactivate the discontinued light on Waterhouse Ln. *Continue*.

Lauren will ask what other towns in the CCM have done about the cost of moving existing fixtures to new poles as they are replaced by Eversource. **Lauren** will also determine from Dave Racke (Eversource) the criteria for pole replacement. If Eversource maintains a spreadsheet for this, can Chester receive a copy?

Lauren will investigate lighting for the Town parking lot on Water Street and whether this can be included in the lease arrangement for the building which is presently being negotiated.

Lauren will ask Public Works to evaluate how many wooden poles need to be replaced (at Town Hall and in the Maple Street parking lot).

Members of the E-Team need to review the list of accomplishments and provide data on actual or expected energy reductions. The list needs to be divided into appropriate categories.

Rick and Sandy will reformat the spreadsheet used by the Finance department to enable faster entry of water and fuel oil data into the EPA PM.

Pat will provide a revised copy of the draft Municipal Action Plan generated under the Technical Assistance program to the PoCD committee.