

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON  
CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024**

**5:30PM**

**TOWN HALL 1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR MEETING ROOM #102**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Russ Kaplan, David Price, Marty Podskoch, Austin Kelly, and John Greeno (arrived at 5:32 P.M.).

**Absent:** Jon Searles.

**Call to Order:** Chairman Kaplan called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

**Approval of Minutes: March 5, 2024:** *A motion was made by Mr. Podskoch, seconded by Mr. Price, to approve of the March 5, 2024 regular meeting minutes with no changes. Voted 4-0 in favor.*

**Public Remarks:** Mark Kimball has been living in town for 36 years and worked at Eversource for 39 years. Mr. Kimball attended the meeting to observe the Task Force members.

Jesse Averham moved from New York to East Hampton. Mr. Averham was interested in the Task Force and wanted to see what the members do during the meeting.

Bob Gustafson lives in town and is retired from Travelers. Mr. Gustafson saw the advertisement for new members for the Task Force in the newspaper. He was curious about the Task Force and the members.

**Town Staff Report:** None

**Old Business**

**A. Working Group Reports**

**1) Sustainability:** The Task Force is close to getting the town to sign off on joining Sustainable CT. The town has to adopt a resolution submitted by the Task Force. The resolution was drafted and put on the Town Council's agenda for their April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting for them to discuss. A representative from Sustainable CT will be attending the Town Council meeting to give a power point presentation.

**2) Community Solar:** The members are working with PACE for a better understanding on how to positively promote and educate residents and the community on the topic. SCEF programs have limited impact for non-rate payers. Efforts are being made to expand programs, raise the cap, and continue offering

the different programs for residents. Virtual net metering and community solar might not be available for residents yet, but municipal buildings and agriculture could utilize the programs. The members discussed residents living in condos that own their homes but aren't able to install solar panels on their roof. HOA's have come between residents putting solar panels on their homes.

**3) EV Charging:** The goal is to increase the number of EV chargers in town. It would be more feasible to add more level two chargers than level three. A member met with Earthlite and looked at a couple of sites that would be great for chargers. There are two existing chargers at Stop & Shop and one charger at Main Street Pizza in the Village Center. The member is waiting for input from Earthlite about the sites. The members briefly discussed grants for installing chargers like PURA and STEAP. Mr. Price reached out to someone working for a company that installs chargers at Cumberland Farms gas stations. He stated that EV chargers would work best in more social settings like while shopping.

**4) Shared Clean Energy Facilities (SCEF):** There is a presentation being held at Laurel Ridge during a meeting at the end of the month. There was a previous meeting held by Eversource that was successful and had a great turn out. The representatives were very knowledgeable and easily answered questions from the public.

- B. 2024 Legislative Proposals:** Chairman Kaplan gave a brief summary of a couple of clean energy bills that are before the legislation currently. PACE and the Sierra Club expressed that interest should be with House Bill #5004. The members discussed drafting a letter of support for the bill to be sent out to Senator Needleman. The Task Force and the town should express their support of the bill.
- C. Earth Day Event:** The members discussed getting volunteers and the promotion of the event all set by the end of the meeting. There are tables on site that could be used to set up a table for the Task Force. Chairman Kaplan will obtain a lot of materials and literature to hand out during the event. The event will start at 9am and will end around 2pm. It was suggested to have a clear message of the Task Force's mission statement to hand out to attending public. The members also discussed buying a banner to announce the Task Force. There was also discussion of getting a budget set for the Task Force. There was a suggestion to get little knickknacks or tchotchkes to hand out at the table and to first get the public's attention. The members discussed getting an article written up to submit in the Rivercast to promote and announce the event. Mr. Greeno, Mr. Price, Mr. Kaplan, and Mr. Kelly will be volunteering for the event. The members talked about staggering the times when they're at the event to cover the entire time of the event.
- D. Electric Vehicle Car Show:** Chairman Kaplan suggested forming a sub-committee to work on the event and update the other members at the monthly meeting. Mr. Podskoch, Mr. Kaplan, and Mr. Price volunteered to work on the sub-committee. The first item the sub-committee would be working on is setting a date for the car show. There are two dates already picked out for the event: September 28<sup>th</sup> and October 5<sup>th</sup>. The rain date for either specified date would be the next day, Sunday. The members discussed the dates and decided to go with the October 5<sup>th</sup> date for the event. The members discussed holding the car show at the congregational church in town since it has a big parking lot. One of the members would need to check with the minister and the town to hold the event on

either day at that location. If needed, extra parking could be at the school next to the church. It was suggested to include the programs and perks of owning electric cars on a flyer to pass out to the public to keep them informed.

- E. Calendar of Upcoming Task Force Events:** Chairman Kaplan will be speaking before the East Hampton Rotary mid-April. It was suggested to keep the Rivereast schedule in mind for submitting articles and announcements for promoting the various events during the year.

**New Business:** Chairman Kaplan contacted the Town Council about two items. The first would be the membership. There may be a new member joining soon and there was an inquiry about adding alternates to the Task Force. Alternate members have the same duties and responsibilities as regular members have for the commissions they serve. The Town Council are looking for alternates for all of the boards and commissions in town to fill out the rosters. There was also discussion about having High School students as members on the Task Force. Chairman Kaplan stated that he would be reaching out to the student coordinator about any interested students that would want to join. The Town Council stated that the Task Force can request student participation with non-voting positions to join. Mr. Greeno has submitted his resignation from the Task Force due to personal reasons, the meeting is his last. Mr. Greeno hopes he can come back sometime in the future.

**Public Remarks:** None

**Adjournment:** *A motion was made by Mr. Kaplan to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 P.M.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Katrina Aligata

Recording Clerk