

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Energy Education Team
Minutes of the Meeting
January 19, 2010

Present: Gupta, Hoyle, Britton (chair), Williams, Walton (staff), Jay Smith (visitor)

The meeting began at 7:06 p.m.

Introductions were made.

The minutes from December 15, 2009 minutes were reviewed and accepted.

Walton reported that the regional energy task force meeting on December 16, 2009 focused on ways households can support renewable energy. Walton distributed a list of energy suppliers that residents can choose from. These suppliers generally charge less than Connecticut Light and Power. Providing this information when discussing CleanEnergyOptions, offers money savings while purchasing renewable energy. One strategy a task force used was donating money to the local children's soccer league with every CleanEnergyOptions sign up.

Walton reported that she participated in an Connecticut Clean Energy Fund energy education webinar. Most of the information was geared towards teachers; however, there is a renewable technology mini-exhibit, called *Conservation Quest*, available to borrow. It is a portable version of the Energy City Gallery in the Connecticut Science Center. Walton has asked to borrow it. She will promote the "eesmarts" energy kindergarten through 8th grade teachers training.

All energy challenge households have been visited. Hoyle and Britton will be sending out their summaries to the participants soon. The Kurland household was filmed during the energy coach visit. There are two other households that would like to be filmed. Walton will look into showing the film on Mansfield's station, Channel 13. Loxsom will be imaging several of the participating households in the upcoming weeks. Coaches should be following up with their assigned households periodically.

Walton brought two compact fluorescent bulb comparisons, as requested at the last meeting. Based on the comparisons, it is not clear which bulb brands are superior. Britton suggested that the team instead inform residents of the type of bulbs that are suited for different tasks and fixtures.

Walton gave an update on the Town's 20% by 2010 status. 406 households are signed on to CleanEnergyOptions, which represents 7.2% of the households. To date, Mansfield has earned six 1 kilowatt systems, three of which have been mounted on EO Smith's roof. Gupta suggested that reaching the 400 household threshold would make a

good article for the Reminder. Walton stated that the additional three panels can now be mounted next to the first three solar panels at EO Smith. The other municipal buildings are not ideal sites for solar panels. Britton asked if a solar thermal system could be mounted on the Community Center, in place of the additional photovoltaics. Walton will check into this.

There are two upcoming presentations that will be held in the Student Center Theater at Eastern Connecticut State University. "Energy Conservation and Solar Energy for Homeowners" will held on Tuesday, March 31 at 7 pm. "Geothermal Energy for Homeowners" will be held on Tuesday, April 21 at 7 pm. Walton will publicize these programs.

Walton reported that the Town website is being reconfigured and now is a good time to contribute information about Mansfield's energy initiatives. Suggestions included using myth busters as a way of framing information or using a questions and answers format. Members were asked to contribute helpful information.

The committee discussed goal setting as an agenda item for the next meeting on February 16, 2010. Roger Smith, from Clean Water Action, will be asked if he can give some guidance on the goal setting session.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator

Cc: Lon R. Hultgren, Director of Public Works, Members, file, Town Manager, Town Clerk