



The Congregational Church of Salisbury

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Green Team/House Committee Request to the Congregation, 29 June 2021

The Energy Master Plan has four phases, three of which are complete: lighting, weather proofing, and water conservation. The last phase, a new roof suitable for solar panels, will pave the way for efficient heating and cooling as well as increased air quality for our building.

The application for new roofing and solar panels submitted to the Salisbury Historic District Commission in June was returned with the request that we split the application into two projects — the roofing and the solar panels. We resubmitted and our submissions were considered when the SHDC met on Tuesday, July 6th. The Commission voted to take our applications to a Public Hearing, scheduled for Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 9:10 a.m. We will send information and links to that meeting, and hope that as many of you as possible will attend.

In the meantime, if you have a moment, please send your letter of support to townhall@salisburyct.us or directly to Georgia Petry (gpetry@salisburyct.us) with reference to these points:

General Talking Points

- Climate change affects us all and becomes more dangerous each year
- Our congregation is aware of the iconic nature of our building which was an important consideration in choosing the materials for roofing and solar panels
- Our "Green Team" spent more than a year consulting with experts to come up with a plan to reduce the building's energy consumption which has been approved by Trustees
- Each aspect of the plan is an integral part of the overall goal of being one of the first true Net Zero church buildings in Connecticut.
- The asphalt roof, 2 oil-burning boilers, and the air-conditioning unit are due for replacement in the near future (3-5yrs) so this is our opportunity for energy conservation
- Without the solar panels, we cannot eliminate the oil furnaces burners or convert to more energy efficient and cleaner air systems.

Roofing and Solar Panels

- Metal roofs weigh less than asphalt and last up to 50 years, 25 years longer than asphalt
- A standing seam metal roof (like the one on Town Hall) allows for easy, close attachment of the solar panels
- Metal roofs on buildings are historically appropriate (first known church to have a metal roof was built in the late 1700's)
- The solar panels we chose are low reflective glass (unlike the familiar shiny black panels one usually sees) and less noticeable than more commonly used panels

- We plan to mount the solar panels close to the roof surface, and to the casual observer they will appear as part of the roof
- The color of the solar panels and the metal of the roof will be a close match and so, make the panels less noticeable from street level

Timing of Project

Sooner rather than later, because there are state programs available with deadlines approaching.

Thank you! If you have questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to church office and leave a message (860-435-2442 / welcome@salisburyucc.org).