



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

MEETING MINUTES

West Hartford Clean Energy Commission

March 12, 2018

7:00 PM

Rm 422

1. Roll Call - 7:04 PM

Member	Present	Alternates	Present
Catherine Diviney	x	Robert Palmer	
Chris Nelson	x	Dave Mello	
Joe Campanella	x	James Capella	
Bernie Pelletier	x		
Max DuBuisson	x		
Total	(3 needed for quorum)		
Additional Attendees	Katherine Bruns, Jeanne Grandy, Dan Tavelli, Bonnie McFarland, Will Taylor, Ted Loewenthal, Jeff Howard, Mary Mockie		

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. January 8, 2018 - Approved
- b. February 12, 2018 - Approved

3. Communications/Administration

- a. WH-CEC google group - group is finalized
- b. WH Celebrate - booth application submitted
- c. Matt Hart to attend meeting April meeting – possibly move to W 4/18? Catherine to advise group on Mr. Hart's schedule.

4. Business

- a. Fracking Waste Ban update – the Community Planning Committee is meeting on 3/21 and will hopefully pass a recommended resolution to the Town Council.
- b. French Cleaner's Tour recap – Bernard Pelletier and James Capella toured French's Cleaners (Farmington Avenue) on 2/21. The tour covered the various environmentally friendly cleaning processes employed by them as well as strategies to reduce energy consumption. The energy strategies ranged from maintenance (keeping steam traps in working order) to LED lighting, localizing cooling, and using heated water in smart ways. It was apparent that best practices can make a significant difference in the energy and waste profile of a dry cleaner. Phil Cote (owner) and Mark Hatch (manager) were generous with their time and insights – and also willing to help other businesses improve their energy efficiency. It was recommended that we form a Business Advisory Board that would connect the CEC to the business community.
- c. Sustainable CT update – The proposal to join Sustainable CT went to the Administrative and Technology committee (Alyssa Norwood) and is expected to pass to the town council 3/27 meeting. The committee structure is not finalized but it is

expected that some director level people from each area will participate. The Commission talked about how to get residents involved in terms of future action. Catherine Diviney is expected to be the initial point person - charged with applying and submitting past actions for recognition.

d. Outreach

- CPACE letter – Catherine and Bernie met with Mackey Dykes and Robert Schmitt from the Green Bank and John Dunster from NEEDS (NorthEast Energy Designs & Solutions) to discuss progress on the outreach. The Green Bank and NEEDS report that 2 local businesses have participated in the program. The Green Bank will resend the offer and also – with permission – interview the businesses using the program – to help other businesses. Also – we will review the 20 to 30 return letters and hand deliver them if possible.
- Bloomfield example – Follow-up – Bernie spoke with Marie McDonald from Bloomfield – and determined that we need to discuss next steps with our Town Manager. The program has been successful in Bloomfield.
- PosiGen presentation (Matt Macunas) - it was agreed that PosiGen will make a presentation to the Commission as soon as timing can be arranged.
- Chamber of Commerce – renewal discussion. The Commission formally joined the WH Chamber last February (2017). It is time to renew if we want to continue as a member. The sense of the Commission was that we are already involved as the Town (e.g. Department of Economic Development) and that we should explore participating alongside other elements of the town. We will explore how such an arrangement could work.

e. 2018 Special events

- How-To-Festival – the application period passed, and we weren't able to participate this year
- George Porter interview – Bernie to work with George. There was also discussion of using Community TV to develop programming on other topics relevant to the CEC – e.g. recycling food waste, and composting.
- Chamber of Commerce seminar – James and Bernie to work with John Dunster of NEEDS (NorthEast Energy Designs & Solutions). Recommended industry focus is Restaurants. Commission recommend broadening this to include liquor stores and convenience stores which have similar energy profiles (i.e. – large cooling demands).
- Celebrate West Hartford – June 9 and 10th. Catherine to send out booth sign-up sheet. We will be in roughly the same area as we were last year. It was agreed that we need to have a clear message and help residents understand who we are and what we can help them with. We plan to hand out remaining light bulbs, focus on HES audits, and introduce residents to potential opportunities to get involved with Sustainable CT.
- Solar promotion – we plan to use GoSolarCT.com as the means to help residents obtain solar.

- f. Multi-Town Initiative – Avon recently sent a note to area towns asking us to explore chances to work together. Catherine sent a DOODLE poll to help set a date – Catherine and others to attend - the idea to engage in cooperative activity on the energy / sustainability side.
- g. Heat pump letter – Max and Jeff to shorten the direction to the town
- h. 100PercentCT project update - Bernie updated the Commission on recent activity. The city of Bridgeport has installed a Microgrid which supplies all of its electricity directly to its local campus (Town Hall, Police Station, and Senior center) and via net metering to other municipal sites. The installation runs three engines (natural gas) turning three generators and uses Combined Heat and Power – this increases the efficiency from 51% to 90%. (SEE PHOTO BELOW). Bernie briefed the town of Westport on their 100% project and also sent a letter to UI and Eversource encouraging greater diligence in supplying aggregate energy figures.
- i. Energy Plan - work to resume as the town budget is nearing completion
- j. Recycling/Food Waste – an expansive discussion of this topic was held. There was concern that even though the food waste pilot was a success – it did not lead to any follow-on work. Expense of implementing was offered as one reason for this. It was hoped that SustainableCT may offer a mechanism for expanding the food waste collection more broadly. There was discussion of working with Knox and Westmoor Park to encourage composting.
- k. Energy report for WH – Catherine Diviney shared the Energy Summary for the Town and Schools of West Hartford (copy attached). Several key takeaways:
 - Both the town and school system have reduced energy consumption 11-12% over the last 5 years
 - Despite great progress there are still opportunities for energy reduction – these opportunities are apparent as we consider the energy use per square foot of each building
 - It was suggested that when the multi-town meeting occurs – that these statistics be compared and shared with other towns.
 - Despite reduction in consumption – cost has remained somewhat stable due to rising rates (especially delivery charges).

5. Adjournment - 8:47 PM

