



# TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

## AGENDA

### West Hartford Clean Energy Commission

September 17, 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	X
Joe Campanella	X	James Capella	
Bernie Pelletier			
Max DuBuisson			
<b>Total</b>	(3 needed for quorum)		
<b>Additional Attendees</b>	Shari Cantor (Mayor), David Tanner (Hartford/Juicebar) Matt Hart (Town Manager), Debbie Roe, Ted Loewenthal, Jagadish Patel, Bonnie McFarland, Debra Morton, Sam Dynowski		

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

- a. August 13, 2018 - approved

#### 3. Communications/Administration/Upcoming Events

- a. Bernie attended a CPES / NEWIEE event (Connecticut Power and Energy Society and New England Women in Energy and the Environment) and learned that West Farms has a proposed 2MW solar installation in the works: <https://www.ct.gov/csc/cwp/view.asp?a=2397&Q=604318&PM=1>
  - Developer is Safari Energy LLC, Part of this array is in Farmington/West Hartford.
- b. Sustainable CT - Oct 22 (lesson learned) and Oct 30 (awards) – register at [www.sustainablect.org](http://www.sustainablect.org)
  - Catherine provided update that West Hartford's application was submitted by August 24 deadline. The town submitted 300 points (a cushion for bronze certification – 200 points). Town will hear whether they are certified sometime in Oct. People are encouraged attend/register for events on website. Ted mentioned that Sust CT is pleased with the level of town participation in the first year.
- c. Nov 8 11-2 PM, PACE is having Mark Jacobson speak – Save the Date
  - Bernie and Mark Scully (100% Simsbury) are very excited about this event. Jacobson is a Stanford University professor who preaches 100% renewables. Event will be in Hartford - details to follow.

#### 4. Business

- a. 2018 Special Events Reports
  - K-O EV Car Show Recap – Event was a big success. Mayor attended in afternoon and read Town's EV Day Proclamation. Turnout of several hundred throughout the day. David Tanner mentioned that is was one of the best events he had ever attended, in terms of organization, site, and variety of cars/people, and level of interest/passion from participants.

Bernie/Catherine read Governor Malloy's proclamation in morning. WH-CEC had a table with info about the group. The K-O robotics team (Matt Safalow) did a fantastic job. The WH-CEC gave them water bottles as a thank you. We should consider doing some press on the event.

- **Sierra/350 events - Samantha Dynowski or Deborah Roe** – Sam said there were over 20 free events promoted and held across the state last week (Sep 2-8) as a Climate, Jobs, & Justice” series in conjunction with the Peoples Climate Movement Global Climate Action Summit that was held in California, which Gov. Dan Malloy participated in. Deb indicated that the final local event “Rise Up for Climate, Jobs, & Justice Rally” on Sun, Sep 9 in New Haven was not as big as they would have liked but still very successful.
  - **Chamber of Commerce Education Seminar – Joe Campanella, James Capella** – Joe reported that they have likely settled on Restaurants as their first target sector. Progress has been slow because his contact at the Small Business Advantage contractor left the company and they are now working with a different contractor. Mayor Cantor asked if the Commission had ever talked to the Chamber about giving out a “Green Award” category for businesses. Bonnie McFarland suggested also that We Ha might add a sustainable category for the “Best of West Hartford” awards.
  - **Solar Campaign – Dan Tavelli, Aaron Hills, Bernie Pelletier**
    - i. **PR blurb (draft)** – Catherine reported that they have finalized a short promo piece encouraging residents to go solar and explore on-line resources like [www.GoSolarCT.com](http://www.GoSolarCT.com). Next step is too disseminate piece through various channels.
    - ii. **Posigen meeting** – Catherine reported that there is a meeting this week with Posigen, a CT Green Bank contractor, to talk about partnering on promotion of low-income solar options.
    - iii. Deb Roe suggested also that a spotlight story could be done on WH neighborhoods where several houses have installed solar and they are using the solar referral fee to hold community parties.
  - **Recycling / Food Waste – Chris Nelson. Erin McFarland, Deb Morton** – Morley ES has kicked off the food waste diversion in their cafeteria. Several Commission members (Chris, Bonnie, Max) have kids at the school. John Philips gave a staff presentation. Catherine and Erin McFarland monitored lunch the first day. Goal is to have the schools own the monitoring and education, not custodians. A top down directive was sent from Assistant Superintendent, but some hand holding will be necessary in beginning. More schools will be phased in this year. Chris Nelson will write a summary of the program for the Morley Newsletter which then can be used for other schools. He also mentioned that DEEP might have some additional grant fund available to use for resources such as stainless sorting stations at other schools. Chris mentioned (while Mayor and Town Manager were in the room) that he hope WH will take another look at SMART.
  - **Community TV Spots – Dave Mello, Joe Campanella, Matt Macunas, Bernie Pelletier** – Catherine reminded everyone that any WH resident can sponsored a video on WH-CTV for free and encouraged people to think about existing videos or make videos which could be played on various topics. So far, Bernie has submitted a heat pump video. We can also link videos on the Town's Clean Energy website. Mayor Cantor suggested that podcasts should be considered for the future.
- b. **100PercentCT Project & Energy Plan** - Updates to come at Oct meeting.
- Bernie has updated info to present at October meeting
  - Bernie and Catherine will work on this in light of Matt Hart's desire to focus more broadly on Carbon Footprint/GHG Emissions
- c. **POCD** – Catherine will let the Commission know when our meeting time is scheduled. She also passed along some initial comments on the current POCD to Todd Dumais, Town Planner.
- Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc is the consultant <http://www.fhiplan.com/>

- Special TPZ sub-committee established for POCD, kicked off last week.
  - Broad Community Workshop in Oct, then special engagement meeting with Clean Energy (and other relevant Commissions) after that.
- d. **CPACE/Green Bank letter** – a follow-up letter to businesses will be coming shortly, as Green Bank has identified another qualified contractor. They are also still working with Hebrew Health to put together a CPACE project.
- e. **Plastic Bag Ban** – This is a hot topic in a lot of towns right now. There is a separate list serv organized by Marty Mador in Hamden to share info. Debra Morton and Catherine are working with 3 students at Sedgwick and their science teacher on a future Town Council presentation to ban plastic bags in West Hartford. The students met with Mayor Cantor a while ago and it was decided for them to continue their efforts in collaboration with the WH-CEC and give a “practice” presentation to the WH-CEC before going to Town Council. Their presentation was postponed from this evening to the Oct 15 meeting. Mayor Cantor described her vision for the process as initially having the students build community support (as happened in Greenwich, Westport) and later develop the structure of the program (ban or fee) and the actual proposal which would need to be approved by Town Council. She also encouraged people to think about equity and who it would impact the most and how that could be addressed. Chris Nelson encouraged the students to think about what it is they want to accomplish by this and why it’s important to West Hartford since we are not on coast like other towns (e.g., litter, ocean life, etc.). He also mentioned state legislation is on hold, due to wording problems and Senator Kennedy retiring and that DEEP is organizing a Municipal Workshop on the topic in Oct/Nov. Town Manager Matt Hart said that Mansfield has a proposal to ban plastic bags in front of Town Council currently. Deb Morton indicated that she had contacted high school science teachers to see if the high schools could work with the middle schoolers to further the research and support. Catherine and Deb are meeting with the student again on Friday.
- f. **Potential Sister “Energy” City in Netherlands (Zwolle)** – More on this next time. Bernie is working with a Dutch resident he met at Owen Eagan’s climate change talk. Mayor Cantor said West Hartford does have a sister city in Israel, but she did not think having another “energy” focused one would be a problem. She is meeting with Bernie next week.
- g. **New Item – VW Settlement money** – Sam asked if West Hartford had put in for any VW settlement money as it should be coming soon. Catherine, Mayor Cantor, and Town Manager Hart indicated that they thought John Philips (Public Works) had submitted for that, If not there will be additional rounds.

## **5. Adjournment - 8:48 PM**