



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

MEETING MINUTES

West Hartford Clean Energy Commission

March 11, 2019

7:00 PM

Rm 422

1. Roll Call 7:10 PM

Member	Present	Alternates	Present
Catherine Diviney	Yes	Robert Palmer	No
Chris Nelson	Yes	Dave Mello	Yes
Joe Campanella	Yes	James Capella	Yes
Bernie Pelletier	Yes		
Max DuBuisson	Yes		
Total	(3 needed for quorum)		
Additional Attendees	Lorena Atkins, Stephen Atkins, Bruce Russel, Evan Russel, Chris Feeley, Stephen Sack, Emma Sack, Deb Morton		

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. February 11, 2019 – *Minutes approved. Posted on town website along with Max DuBuisson's Carbon Markets presentation.*

3. Communications/Administration

- a. Farmington Green Efforts Commission discussion – *Meeting organized by James Capella and Bernie Pelletier. We shared our plans and recent achievements. They were invited to sit in on one of our meetings and also to consider joining the 100PercentCT project.*

4. Upcoming Events

- a. March 14, 6PM – *Rm 314 FOIA Commission Training. Dave Mello volunteered to attend. Catherine Diviney also notes that there is a meeting for staff and she is planning to attend.*
- b. April 14, 1 PM, State Capital – *Rally for Climate Action and Equity The rally is organized by Efficiency for All and is focused on having the Legislature restore the efficiency funds diverted in last years session.*
- c. April 23, 6PM, St. James Church, WH – *West Hartford Energy Discussion. Bernie Pelletier will discuss the total community energy consumption of our town along with plans to reduce load and increase overall amount of renewables. This is 1 of a series co-hosted with the Sierra Club designed to raise the overall consciousness of WH residents on matters of energy.*
- d. May 28, 6PM, St. James Church, WH – *Sierra Ready for 100 Discussion Samantha Dynowski, State Director for Sierra Club will speak about the Sierra Clubs program to help towns transition to 100 Percent renewable power.*

5. Business

- a. "TED" talk – Catherine Diviney – *The Town of West Hartford Report on Energy and Recycling. Catherine shared the presentation that she had delivered at St. James's on February 26th. This presentation outlined West Hartford's successes in lowering consumption for Municipal operations. It was agreed that we will work on a West Hartford Community*

Television version of this presentation so that more residents can understand the progress and importance of this work. Lorena Atkins will assist Catherine in this effort (She works with WHCTV). Additionally – we will work to reprise the presentations done by Stephen Sacks and Max DuBuisson on community television as well.

- b. Discussion with purchasing and town attorney concerning process of engaging with individual companies. *Catherine reported that discussions with the town attorney and the purchasing department have yielded results. A “standard” set of disclaimers will be added to all letter where the WH Clean Energy Commission engages in a program that includes a commercial enterprise (e.g. – a contractor for the SBEA program). Corp Counsel would still like to discuss/review anything before it is finalized. The letter announcing Energy Resources (a private SBEA contractor) desire to work proactively with West Hartford Businesses has been rewritten to include approved language. The thrust of the language is twofold: 1) the town and WHCEC cannot endorse a specific contractor but does 2) support the overall goals of bring attention to EnergizeCT programs. James Capella and Joe Campanella intend to reach out to the West Hartford Chamber of Commerce to clarify their position on this topic.*
- c. Potential combining with Conservation and Environment Commission – *Catherine and Todd Dumais have asked the WHCEC to consider the possible combination of these two commissions. The benefits are that it would streamline the large number of commissions. The concern is that the missions may not be aligned, that we’d need to devote resources to a proper structure and combination of members. The proposal was for further investigation of this potential combination. The WHCEC approved in a 6 to 1 vote.*
- d. Sister City task force report – *The Sister City had its first meeting on February 27th. Ted Newton, Katherine Bruns, Jill Morawski, Johannes Evelein, Henry Link, and Nancy Pelletier were in attendance. Work plan is to report back on March 27th with a slate of potential cities and a draft value proposition for working with the town of West Hartford. The intent of this exercise is to reach out to other cities to leverage their clean energy and sustainability expertise.*
- e. Community Energy Plan *Ted Loewenthal and Bernie will work on this.*
- f. Ongoing Campaigns – Status:
 - *Business outreach – Catherine anticipates the Energy Resources letter to restaurants will be cleared the week of March 11.*
 - *Solar for all – the Posigen/ Green Bank continues through the end of April. The cold weather has made it difficult. We will ask the CEC for help in getting the word out.*
 - *Solvview – the discussion with purchasing and the town attorney has cleared up obstacles to progress. No specific date for starting the program.*
 - *Recycling – food waste. Katherine Bruns has attended a composting work shop. There was discussion of a potential mini – bio digester at Brixton Road – but this is not an active proposal.*
 - *Community TV – it was agreed to use our TED talks as original material working with Lorena Atkins*
 - *Sierra Ready for 100/100PercentCT – as noted above the WHCEC and Sierra have partnered on a series of educational meetings. In the US over 100 cities and towns have signed on to go 100% renewable by 2050.*
 - *Plastic Bag Ban /Schools Trex Plastic Challenge – the students from Sedgwick have made a great deal of progress. They have presented to the Town Council and also made an appearance at the State Legislature on March 11!*

6. AOB

- a. *A discussion of the Hartford fugitive Methane project led to the WHCEC questioning whether something like this makes sense in WH because there are reports of large gas leaks. Catherine to talk with engineering.*
- b. *A discussion was held suggesting that we form a Business advisory council that could advise and assist us with engaging the WH business community. Stephen Sack (Sack Energy) noted that some of the incentives and programs are not well understood by the business community.*

7. Adjournment 9:10 PM

Next meeting April 15, 2019 Town Hall Room 422