



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

MEETING MINUTES

West Hartford Clean Energy Commission

July 15, 2019

7:00 PM

Rm 422

1. Roll Call

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	No		
Total	(3 needed for quorum)		
Additional Attendees	Steve Sacks, Owen Eagan, Julia Farber, Chris Feely, Samantha Dynowski		

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. June 10, 2019 – *Minutes were not posted, so could not be approved. Held for next meeting.*

3. Communications/Administration

- a. Fellowship Housing Project – 20H Starkel Rd – 2 Letters (draft) – *Catherine shared draft notes. Julia Farber will review 7/21-7/22 and circulate to Joe Campanella. Catherine to discuss with Todd Dumais whether the new Fintech building plan should also be sent a letter by CEC.*
- b. Update on combining with Cons & Env't Commission – *No formal progress on consolidation. Catherine suggested that the CEC create a survey (survey monkey) with questions from the CEC about possible areas of cooperation and joint activity. CEC to provide questions to Catherine*
- Reach out to other commissions? - *Based on Sister City research, it appears that the Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission and the Conservation and Environment Commission have some overlap with the CEC. Suggestion to incorporate a bicycle and pedestrian plan as part of the Clean Energy Plan.*
- c. Should WH declare a climate emergency? <https://www.treehugger.com/corporate-responsibility/>
- New Britain, CT - *Catherine reached out to Town Clerk and Alderman Aram Ayalon in New Britain. It is not clear whether the Emergency has been declared or proposed. Catherine will talk with Mayor Cantor about the climate crisis campaign and get her perspective -- e.g. – would it be useful, how much community organizing is required, etc. It was also suggested that if an emergency is declared the CEC must have a list of action steps to take. Chris Feely handed out two articles – “Has Your Doctor Talked to You About Climate Change?” (the BBC) and “A Glacier the Size of Florida is Becoming Unstable. It has Dire Implications for Global Sea Levels” (Time Magazine) – both underscored the immediacy of changes taking place.*
 - Fit with other initiatives? *Currently Sierra Ready for 100 Campaign is involved in education and outreach about renewables in WH. If a climate emergency is declared, it would make sense to coordinate with the RF100 outreach campaign.*

- d. Janet Tanner – outreach to WHPS – *Bernie Pelletier updated WHCEC on Janet Tanner’s generous offer to fund a carbon reduction challenge between Hall and Conard. The campaign would call upon students to develop a meaningful plan in the 2019-20 school year and then have subsequent classes implement the campaign. This work is being sponsored by Real Estate Agents Recycle – a nonprofit group in WH.*

4. Upcoming Events

5. Business

a. Event Recaps

- June 24, CTGBC meeting @ Legrand – *Julia Farber updated the CEC on the tour and Connecticut Green Building Council meeting hosted on June 24th at Legrand. Attendance was good and the panel promising with regard to the potential and importance of green building.*

- b. 100PercentCT report / HeatSmart RFP – *The 100PercentCT program is developing a HeatSmart campaign that will promote Air Source Heat Pumps in CT. The campaign is patterned after the Solarize model. Similar programs have been operating successfully in Massachusetts and New York.*
- c. Sister City task force report – *The task force has issued a six-month report and concluded that a sustainability sister city is too large an undertaking. It was suggested instead that when the CEC or any commission proposes a course of action that it – as a matter of course- investigate what other towns and cities are doing.*
- d. Energy Plan Catherine apprised the CEC on the simpler approach (ppt slides vs Word Doc) being explored with Mark Scully of Simsbury. *It was agreed that the simpler approach had merit.*
- e. Solview - *Continued progress. Catherine was working with Renee McCue on outreach. Business buildings were added to the list – and this has delayed the proposed mailing somewhat.*
- f. Brownfields in town – site for solar (Agora ballroom?) – *No progress*
- g. Community TV – *No activity. However, Lorena Atkins has volunteered to help make energy related videos.*
- h. Land Trust / Trex Community Challenge – *Catherine has connected Trex and the Rotary club. Coordination meeting will be held with Dept of Pub Works Aug 1. CEC’s role will be promotion.*
- i. Plastic Bag Ban / Schools Trex Plastic Challenge – *Concluded successfully. Work underway to have the town council recognize the students work.*
- j. Business Advisory Committee Idea – *no discussion*

6. **AOB – Joe Campanella updated the CEC –** *the Church decided not to follow through with SBEA. One small local business has signed up and a substantial apartment complex is considering it.*

7. **Book Recommendation - Life After Carbon,** Peter Plastrik and John Cleveland – *Bernie recommended this book which puts cities at the center of progress on carbon reduction. It contains a lot of inspiring examples as well as a discussion of challenges*

8. Adjournment - 8:54 PM

Next meeting Aug 12, 2019 Town Hall Room 422 (no Catherine)