



# TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

## Meeting Minutes

### West Hartford Clean Energy Commission

November 18, 2019

7:00 PM

Rm 422

#### 1. Roll Call – 7:00 PM

Member	Present	Alternates	Present
Catherine Diviney	Yes	Robert Palmer	No
Chris Nelson	Yes	Dave Mello	Yes
Joe Campanella	Yes	James Capella	No
Bernie Pelletier	Yes		
Max DuBuisson	No		
<b>Total</b>	(3 needed for quorum)		
<b>Additional Attendees</b>	Abby Tomkinson, Chris Feely, Stephen Sack, Katherine Bruns, Samantha Dynowski,		

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Review and approve October minutes – Approved

#### 3. Communications/Administration

- a. 2020 Officer slate/ Commission membership - VOTE

- Bernard Pelletier was elected Chairman effective January 1, 2020 (5 Yes, 0 No)
- Catherine Diviney was elected Secretary effective January 1, 2020 (5 Yes, 0 No)

- b. Working with other Commissions

The decision rests with Town officials.

Catherine speculated that the likely structure is to have the current Conservation and Environment Commission, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission, and the West Hartford Clean Energy Commission continue as independent entities. Two changes will (potentially) be made – 1st there will be an effort for the commissions to share agendas and stayed connected and 2nd a quarterly meeting of an oversight commission may be created. Catherine is visiting both Commissions to talk about Sustainable CT.

- c. Follow-up Sedgwick Students from Oct Mtg – Catherine provided some additional information on energy use of Sedgwick and some practical questions for them to consider after their presentation on piezoelectricity.

#### 4. Upcoming and Recent Events

- a. Oct 28 - Flip the Switch Town Hall Solar recap

This event on October 28th and was well received. It was reported in the press and several other towns expressed interest in learning more about the process by which the solar was acquired. This engendered a conversation about how the PPA process works. Catherine explained that the company installing the system was Verogy and that they provided the energy to the supply section of the bill. The rate per kWh was fixed for twenty years at 6.5 cents (lower than current rates available from Eversource or other 3rd party suppliers). Having solar does not reduce energy use, nor does it guarantee a reduction in demand (KW) or demand charges. These charges are only affected if solar production

coincides with the exact time of peak demand. It was mentioned that West Hartford does not own the RECs and is technically not entitled to claim the energy as green. Some further discussion related to whether the town should buy the RECs, but it was determined that this was not possible.

- b. Nov 22 – CT Forum Climate Crisis, Bushnell - Gina McCarthy – former head of the EPA and DEEP is a panelist. Bernie and PACE will have a booth.

## 5. Business

### a. Review – 100 Percent Resolution

A draft resolution was presented. This resolution was created in response to a request from the Mayor. The draft was patterned after 100% resolutions written by the Sierra club. The draft was not accepted as written and the following direction was provided:

- i. Shorten the sections describing why the WHCEC was asking for this:
- ii. Sharpen those areas of the resolution that discuss the dangers of climate change and their relevance to West Hartford
- iii. The resolution should be aspirational and high level with the specifics to be provided in a plan commissioned by the resolution

Bernie Pelletier will redraft for consideration – next meeting in December

### b. Review action steps for 2020 Energy Plan

The Commission briefly looked at the material provided on the plan. It was agreed that individual commissioners will review and provide their own thoughts on what the 2020 plan should focus on – next meeting in December.

### c. Community Choice Aggregation presentation

A PowerPoint describing this legislative proposal and a draft town resolution were circulated but time did not permit a review.

### d. Fintech Letter – Catherine was reviewing the draft and will send before the next meeting.

### e. Sustainable CT Update - Catherine indicated that the town is working toward a silver designation and that more community engagement will be expected. She has also visited other Commission meeting and is working with several groups in town interested in pursuing the Sustainable CT/ioby Community Match Fund.

### f. POCD update - Catherine has seen an internal draft of the POCD and made comments. The Commission expressed a desire to see it before it went out.

### g. Status of in-flight initiatives: Solview, SBEA, other? No updates to report.

## 6. AOB

- a. The commission was pleased to have a visit from a Conard Senior – Abby Tomkinson. She was reviewing the meeting for a government studies project. The idea of student membership on the commission was discussed.

## 7. Adjournment – 8:55 PM

**Next meeting December 16, 7PM Town Hall Room 422**