



# TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

## Meeting Minutes

### West Hartford Clean Energy Commission

September 9, 2019

7:00 PM

Rm 314

#### 1. Roll Call 7:05 PM

Member	Present	Alternates	Present
Catherine Diviney	Yes	Robert Palmer	Yes
Chris Nelson	No	Dave Mello	No
Joe Campanella	Yes	James Capella	Yes
Bernie Pelletier	Yes		
Max DuBuisson	Yes		
<b>Total</b>	(3 needed for quorum)		
<b>Additional Attendees</b>	Samantha Dynowski, Paul Hogan, Ted Newton, Jim Henkel, Matt Macunas, Matt Hart, Shari Cantor, Jagadish Patel, Ted Lowenthal, Dan Tavelli		

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

- a. June 10, 2019 & July 15, 2019 – **Approved**

#### 3. Communications/Administration

- a. Fellowship Housing Project letters – **Letters sent to Town Council and Board of Fellowship Housing. Discussion with owner’s rep Mark Garelli indicate that the project is giving serious consideration to clean energy, net zero, and passif haus design.**
- b. Fintech / UConn Development letters – **Letter being drafted by Joe Campanella.**

#### 4. Upcoming Events

- a. **Climate Strike – September 20<sup>th</sup> at noon – state capital**
- b. **Electric Vehicle Display – Town Hall Parking Lot – September 21, 2019 9AM to 1PM**

#### 5. Business

- a. Discussion with Mayor Cantor:
  - Should WH declare a climate emergency? **Catherine Diviney provided the background of the climate emergency movement to the Mayor and Town Manager. The idea will be presented to the Community Planning Subcommittee of the Town Council. There was also discussion of the work being done by Sierra Club to educate and raise awareness of the need for clean energy. There was some discussion about implications of the word “emergency” and whether, framing a commitment in a more positive light might be beneficial.**

<https://www.theclimatemobilization.org/climate-emergency>

- Resolution language

<https://www.theclimatemobilization.org/climate-emergency-templates>

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dA3Jnx4xlrqrMrlyITdtD\\_WBynr\\_UuU-cjuZpyW7Gts/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dA3Jnx4xlrqrMrlyITdtD_WBynr_UuU-cjuZpyW7Gts/edit)

- **Combining Commissions : Discussion seemed to point towards creation of an umbrella commission that would encompass the Conservation and Environment Commission, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission, and the Clean Energy Commission. There were representatives of the other commissions there (Hogan, Macunas, Newton). The Town Manager will work on a recommendation. There was also complete agreement that in the meantime we should work closely together. Sustainable CT was viewed as a unifying force. Catherine Diviney will make a presentation to the other committees on this program.**
  - **Fellowship Housing, Fintech – see communications above**
  - **Energy Plan – There was agreement that an Energy Plan update is needed and valued. The approach will be to produce a streamlined plan similar to the work being done by PACE and Simsbury. The POCD for WH is in process and the expectation is that the energy plan will be incorporated by reference.**
  - **September 20<sup>th</sup> Climate Events – see above**
  - **Funding – Other – Catherine Diviney briefed the Commission on the new grant program of Sustainable CT. This program will match crowd sourced funding up to \$25,000.**
- b. **100PercentCT report - continued Community Engagement through Sierra RF100**
  - c. **Sister City task force report – task force has completed work and delivered report. Recommendations are to work more closely between commissions, look to engage with other cities on specific topics, and to operate under a banner of sustainability. This is very similar to the approach taken in the discussion of combining commissions. Task Force is hoping to engage the Town Manager in a discussion.**
  - d. **Energy Plan – See above**
  - e. **Business SBEA – status – No report**
  - f. **Solview – status – No report**
  - g. **Community TV - Pended**
  - h. **Land Trust / Trex Community Challenge - Ongoing**
  - b. Plastic Bag Ban /Schools Trex Plastic Challenge - Completed**
  - c. **Brownfields in town – site for solar (Agora ballroom?- Pended**
  - d. **Business Advisory Committee Idea - Pended**

## **6. AOB**

## **7. Adjournment Adjourned at 9:00 PM**

**Next meeting October 21, Town Hall Room 422**



August 26, 2019

To Fellowship Housing Board of Directors:

The West Hartford Clean Energy Commission (WH-CEC) is very excited to hear about the planned redevelopment of Fellowship Housing, located on Town-owned property in West Hartford.

We appreciate that you reached out to Catherine Diviney, the Town's Energy Specialist, to inquire about energy efficiency and clean energy programs and resources that might be available to support your project. We encourage you to take advantage of these resources and **consider attempting a net-zero energy design** for the development.

Your project offers a unique opportunity to demonstrate and showcase a fully integrated, sustainable design that minimizes the life-cycle costs and environmental impacts of the buildings, while at the same time meeting the programmatic needs of an affordable senior housing community.

As you may know, last year West Hartford was honored to be included on the latest list of towns and cities participating in Sustainable CT. Sustainable CT is committed to supporting "thriving, resilient, collaborative, and forward-looking communities...They equitably promote the health and well-being of current and future residents, and they respect the finite capacity of the natural environment."

As a Town Commission singularly focused on promoting environmental responsibility and clean energy in our town, we believe new building developments and redevelopment projects in West Hartford should strive to reflect these sustainability values. As such, we want you to know how excited we are that you have the opportunity to be among the first to embrace and model this commitment to our community by incorporating high-performance building features into your building. Doing so would be a tremendous achievement for Fellowship Housing, its tenants, and the Town itself.

We, the members of West Hartford's Clean Energy Commission, would deeply appreciate it if you would build sustainability into the design of your project from the start, as this would have ripple effects in setting your project up for greater energy, water, resource, and waste savings; the investment in sustainable design would pay back quickly.

The buildings you construct now will be woven into the fabric of West Hartford and have an impact on our Town for decades to come. Thank you for considering our input at this critical stage. We are available should you need resources or assistance.

Sincerely,

*Bernard Pelletier, Secretary WHCEC*

West Hartford Clean Energy Commission

cc: Matt Hart, Town Manager  
Todd Dumais, Town Planner  
Shari Cantor, Mayor, and the Honorable Members of Town Council  
Mark Garelli, CSG



August 26, 2019

To the Honorable Members of Town Council:

The West Hartford Clean Energy Commission (WH-CEC) is very excited to hear about the redevelopment of Fellowship Housing, located on town-owned property, at 20 Starkel Rd. in West Hartford.

This project offers a unique opportunity to consider a fully integrated design that minimizes the life-cycle costs and environmental impacts of the buildings, while at the same time meeting the programmatic needs of a senior housing community that will be affordable for occupants over the long-term.

As this project is located on town-owned property, the West Hartford Clean Energy Commission would like to voice its support for a sustainable, green design – potentially even **net-zero energy**. We believe this is not an unrealistic goal, as it has been attained successfully elsewhere, and it would be a tremendous achievement for Fellowship Housing, its tenants, and the Town itself, further establishing West Hartford as a leader in environmental sustainability.

The WH-CEC would also like to recommend that the Town Council encourage the Fellowship Housing project team to focus on sustainability and energy goals for the benefit of all stakeholders. The buildings they construct will be standing for over 50 years, and we respectfully suggest it is your duty, as elected Town officials, to ensure they are constructed in a responsible, sustainable manner.

Sincerely,

*Bruno Pelletier, Secretary WH-CEC*

Members of the West Hartford Clean Energy Commission

cc: Sonya Davis, Fellowship Housing  
Matt Hart, Town Manager  
Shari Cantor, Mayor  
Todd Dumais, Town Planner