



## Clean Energy Commission AGENDA

January 27, 2020  
7:00 PM  
Rm 422 (Town Hall)

### 1. Roll Call 7:06 PM

Commissioner	Present	Alternates	Present	Additional Attendees
Catherine Diviney	X	Robert Palmer		Katherine Bruns Paul Hogan Emily Scott Rick Bush Kathleen Golas Matt Macunas Julia Farber
Chris Nelson		Dave Mello	X	
Joe Campanella	X	James Capella		
Bernie Pelletier	X			
Max DuBuisson				

### 2. Approval of Minutes – Dec 16, 2019, **postponed**

### 3. Communications/Administration

- a. Role of WH-CEC and goals for 2020 – Bernie Pelletier - Bernie assumed role of Chair and discussed that some of the top goals for this year are: finish the Energy Plan, report regularly to Town Council, and interact with other Commissions.
  - i. Meeting schedule – is finalized and posted on website. We have moved to different Mon night than Ped & Bike and same night as Cons & Env't to try to foster more interaction between Commissions
  - ii. Attendance at meetings – this year we may revisit formal Commissioner appointments based on regular meeting attendance, so that people who do attend can participate.
- b. POCD Draft out for public comment - deadline for comments in Feb 24, but WH-CEC would like to submit by Feb 1. See discussion of draft letter later in mtg.  
[https://www.westhartfordct.gov/gov/departments/pz/west\\_hartford\\_pocd\\_update.asp](https://www.westhartfordct.gov/gov/departments/pz/west_hartford_pocd_update.asp)
- c. Bio-Fuels Information from Stephen Sack - Commission acknowledged receipt of materials by email to google group. Steve gave presentation later in mtg.
- d. Ideanomics/Fintech Letter update - Catherine explained that Fintech letter was finalized but was advised to hold off sending by Director of Community Services since project seemed to have stalled. However, in last week project team has submitted to TP&Z, so she will revisit sending the letter.

### 4. Upcoming and Recent Events

- a. Jan 15 – Recap CTCLV Annual Environmental Summit. Several members attended this. It is an excellent event; people should consider in the future
- b. Jan 28 - State of the Town Address (tickets required) Bernie is going, will report back
- c. Jan 29 - Interviews for WH Recycling Coordinator position. Very exciting to have this new town position. Katherine Bruns is a candidate.
- d. Feb 1 - Net Zero Schools meeting. Bernie, Catherine going, will report back.
- e. Feb 24 - POCD public hearing. Same night as our next meeting, we can adjust schedule of meeting to attend in person.
- f. Other
  - i. Jan 31 – Net Zero Schools Summit CTGBC event at Yale
  - ii. Feb 11 - Catherine is presenting at the AEE CT Chapter meeting

### 5. Business

- a. Community Choice Aggregation (time sensitive) – PowerPoint Presentation and review of draft resolution for Town Council to support State investigating CCA during 2020 Legislative Session (30 Minutes). It was decided the WH-CEC supports the idea of drafting a resolution but would like to see the actual resolutions that were passed by Middletown, Simsbury, New Haven, and Mansfield. There is some time sensitivity on this action due to short legislative session. If a resolution cannot be obtained in time, then a letter of support from the Commission is an option.
- b. POCD Update - Draft letter with WH-CEC Commission formal comments (20 minutes) Commissioners voted unanimously to submit, subject to minor “clean-up,” editing. Catherine, Julia and Commissioners will finalize and submit to Todd by Feb 1. Final letter attached.
- c. Sustainable CT Update (5 minutes) – Next meeting of internal committee is Feb 20.
- d. Energy Plan - Process/Timeline (5 minutes) – DEADLINE for adoption in August 30 (Sustainable CT submission due). First draft will be presented at Feb 24.
- e. Energy Plan Public Comments – Stephen Sack (15 minutes) – Presentation attached.
- f. Discussion with Conservation & Environment Committee (30 Minutes) – A production discussion was held. It was agreed that both Commissions welcome more interaction and collaboration. The Cons & Env't Commission is undecided how much additional work and what topics they would like to take on. They were supportive of having a town staff liaison, like Energy Specialist (Catherine) is for the WH-CEC. This staff could potentially be the new Recycling Coordinator.
- g. AOB Kathleen Golas (League of Women Voters) presented on the proposed Bottle Bill and asked if the Commission or the Town would formally support it. The WH-CEC thought this topic was a better fit for the Cons & Env't Commission, but indicated they would consider supporting too. Again, there is some time sensitivity due to short legislative session.

**6. Adjournment - Next meeting February 24, 7PM, Town Hall Room 422**



February 10, 2020

Todd Dumais, Town Planner  
50 South Main St  
West Hartford, CT 06107

**Re: Public Comments on POCD from the Clean Energy Commission**

Dear Todd / Plan & Zoning Commission:

The West Hartford Clean Energy Commission (WH-CEC) has been following the update of the town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) with interest.

We sincerely appreciate and thank you for your efforts! It is truly a complicated, time-consuming endeavor to update any planning document, as we well know from our own efforts to update the 2009 Energy Plan.

We have reviewed the current draft (12/17/19), and we support the new POCD in general. However, as a Commission, we believe that there are several critical topics missing, without which we cannot support its adoption. The POCD is a 10-year plan; to omit current, relevant, real issues which are only become increasingly important to municipal planning and development, would be a grave oversight.

We have listed our comments below in order of concern, and we are more than willing to engage in further discussion or suggestion/review of specific language, if desired.

**Critical**

1. **The POCD must incorporate climate change.** The words climate change do not currently appear in the POCD. West Hartford has, and will continue to, experience environmental and weather-related changes due to global warming that pose direct risks to our town's development and quality of life. A discussion of the very real impacts and risks associated with climate change must be included, as well as the need to address these challenges through mitigation, adaptation, and resiliency. The WH-CEC has stressed this point since Sep/Oct 2018 when our input on the POCD was first solicited in questionnaires and stakeholders' sessions. Virtually all POCDs updated in recent years by other towns include a discussion of climate change: ours must too.
2. **A review of the POCD relative to Sustainable CT Action 4.1.1. needs to be conducted.** Sustainable CT is a voluntary municipal certification program that West Hartford participates in. The town will be seeking Silver certification under this program in August 2020. Action 4.1.1. provides a checklist of suggested sustainability topics for POCDs. This list needs to be reviewed in detail a) to ensure that the POCD meets the Sustainable CT requirements, and b) to identify additional topics that should be included, such as **prioritizing green (over gray) infrastructure and sustainable construction materials.**

**Preferred**

1. **Transportation section should recognize the electrification trend.** Electric vehicles are mentioned only in the context of charging stations (pgs. 5, 52). However, this trend has broader implications for planning over a 10-year horizon including infrastructure, grid capacity, building and zoning codes, and public and private vehicle fleets.
2. **Discussion of waste management and solid waste disposal should be updated and strengthened.** “Materials management” (current term) is a real and growing concern not only for town facilities, but also for residents and businesses. The town needs to move beyond “evaluation” (Action 5a, pg. 19, Action 2c. pg.64), especially over a 10-year horizon, to meet State-mandated goal of 60% diversion by 2024.
3. **Reference to and role of the Conservation and Environment Commission should be expanded.** There is only a single reference to this Commission (pg. 64) in contrast to other Commissions – e.g., Clean Energy, Bike and Pedestrian, and Historic District. A 10-year plan needs to reflect that the Conservation and Environment Commission should be a key player in implementation of the POCD (allowing for potential adjustment in the Commission’s current scope and function).

We look forward to your response,

Sincerely,



Bernard Pelletier  
Chair, West Hartford Clean Energy Commission



Catherine Diviney  
Energy Specialist, Town of West Hartford & Secretary, Clean Energy Commission

Cc: West Hartford Clean Energy Commission, by email