



January 27, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Clean Energy Commission Minutes

1. Meeting Opening

- a. Call to order: **Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM**
- b. Roll Call:
 - **Present: Bernie Pelletier, Max DuBuisson, Chris Nelson,**
 - **James Capella, Joe Campanella, Catherine Diviney**
 - **David Mello**
 - **Absent: Robert Palmer**
 - **Community: Katherine Bruns, Jennifer Evans, Mike Matthews**
- c. Approval of Minutes - December 21, 2020: **Unanimously approved**

2. Old Business

- a. Feedback on Energy Plan Draft, <https://www.westhartfordct.gov/resident-services/clean-energy/comprehensive-energy-plan>
 - Use appendix reference adjacent to address some comments received
 - Town Manager reviewed:
 - inquired about ability to include carbon tracking tool,
 - suggested that a strategy for efficiency would to consolidate municipal operations into more efficient buildings,
 - suggested that we explore connection between energy, waste water, storm water, and waste management,
 - expressed interest in waste reduction strategies and the management / reduction of impervious surfaces
 - Conservation and environment commission comments:
 - Suggested that the plan include by reference documents explaining the need for such a plan (IPCC reports, Paris Accord, etc)
 - Commission agreed to share WH draft plan with PACE for other towns to use as a template for their own plans
- b. Commission Membership / New Officers
 - Stephen Sack in discussion with Lee Gold to become a Republican member of the commission
 - No vacancy at the moment but Stephen will be added to the commission – valuable addition and energy background
- c. Public Art & EV Chargers

- Discussion of the initiative to paint EV Charging stations using local artists. Joint effort of the Bloomfield, Simsbury, and West Hartford (WH Art Commission and WH CEC)
 - Bring together arts and sciences by allowing artists to create public art at EV stations
 - Been done in Tacoma, MD – <https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/arts-and-humanities/public-art/call-for-proposals-public-art/>
- d. US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Award
 - West Hartford received top award in the Annual Climate Protection Award small city category. The award was sponsored by the US Conference of Mayors.
 - Mayor Cantor – Small town winner (\$15,000 that goes to a sustainability non-profit)
 - Will spend the money to benefit the community, will go to BiCi Co. <https://bicico.org/shopservices/> (Center for Latino Progress in Hartford, partner with Bike Hartford) to benefit West Hartford and Hartford)
- e. Climate Emergency - Middletown example
 - A group of students led by Hendree Milward presented their plan to propose a Climate Energy. They were planning to present to the Conservation and Environment committee and draft a resolution for the CEC to consider.

In light of efforts at the Federal level we should continue to keep this topic on the agenda.

3. New Business

a. Commissioner reports:

- Support town council adoption of Clean Energy Plan: All commissioners
- Updates to Town Council and Public Works: Bernie Pelletier and Catherine Diviney
- Community communication network: Joe Campanella/ Chris Nelson/Mike Matthews
 - Use all of our networks to increase outreach and build on the current subscribers (235 followers on Sustainable West Hartford), Friends and Neighbors – using neighborhood networks
 - Use Twitter from prominent individuals in town to tweet/share our page
 - Can't maintain every platform, should choose a few channels
 - Ask Rene McCue for input and see if she would help
 - Is it possible to get some money to pay someone for outreach?
- Rethink connection with Sustainable West Hartford Facebook page: Joe, Chris, Mike Matthews
- Town Clean Energy Webpage: Catherine, Max Dubuisson, Mike Matthews
- Youth representation: Catherine –approved a motion for an informal representative from Hall and Conard. Catherine will create a draft and reach out to Hall & Conard
- Heat Pump and efficiency education campaign: Bernie, Joe In the process of finding a balance of language that the town will be comfortable with. This language will make it clear we engage with contractors but don't guarantee or warranty their work. They are helping with outreach and awareness. Need to find a way over the hurdle or we might not get anything done.
- Energy outreach to LMI (Low Middle Income): Bernie, Max – nothing to report right now
- Outreach for Sierra Club RF100: Joe, Chris, Mike Matthews, Samantha Dynowski – we could potentially be the first town in CT that passes an RF100 resolution!
- EV car event: James Capella – rethink events in pandemic – maybe virtual interviews, show 1 a day from a dealer – National Drive Electric in September (future, repeatable)
- Public transit champions: Catherine – will talk to greater Hartford transit
- Community engagement with Sustainable CT: Catherine – WH received recognition (6 out of 30 cities/towns) from ACEEE Scorecard and now part of a network of sustainable states (NJ, MN, MD, CA)
- Explore Sustainability plan (broader than Energy Plan): Bernie, Catherine, Katherine Bruns, Stephen Sack – Catherine and Katherine met with Matt Hart with the intent of creating a Sustainability Task Force to assist the town with its work on the Sustainable CT silver designation. More people need to be involved and engaged – hopefully will have broad

representation from relevant commissions, youth and different neighborhoods. Goal is 20 members (diversity). First charge of task force will be completing the SustainableCT application and the second task will be to identify where there are gaps in what existing commissions are doing. Task Force concept is being presented to Council Subcommittee for approval on January 28th.

- Sustainable WH Public Schools - (virtual) Katherine Bruns and Catherine Diviney are working with Leanne Nolan @ Hall HS to rebuild the environmental network within WHPS – do we know teachers at the public schools, ideal for this, let Catherine know. Schools are still doing separation (in the kitchen) for food scraps to continue the behavior.
- Mailers – initiative or campaign (active), we can piggy back off of tax mailers (Solarize campaign, home energy audits)
- Catherine Shared Town energy use for electricity, natural gas and water usage. Large savings over the past few years and usage is down.

4. Reports

- Bernard Pelletier briefed the commission on the Community Engagement Plan that is being proposed by Eversource and UI. This plan would fund some outreach by the Commission (similar to what the Bright Ideas Program did in the past)
- Catherine Diviney report that the pandemic is requiring increased ventilation even in the colder weather. Despite this the energy consumption is staying approximately level because of energy efficiency work done in the recent years. Summary Charts attached.

5. Public Comment

6. Adjournment **8:42PM**

"ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING OR PUBLIC HEARING SHOULD CONTACT SUZANNE OSLANDER, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, 860-561-7580 SEVEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING OR PUBLIC HEARING."