



Clean Energy Commission
Special Meeting
September 29, 2021, 6:30 PM

This special meeting of the Clean Energy Commission was conducted as a virtual meeting. A recording of the meeting is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYE97SNSSNE>

MEETING MINTUES

1. Meeting Opening

- a. Call to Order - *Meeting called to order at 6:32 PM*
- b. Roll Call
 - *Commissioners present:: Catherine Diviney, Stephen Sack (left at 7 PM), Joe Campanella, David Mello, Max DuBuisson, Bernard Pelletier*
 - *Commissioners not present: Robert Palmer, James Capella*
 - *Public: David Rowe*
- c. Approval of August 25, 2021 Minutes - *Unanimously approved*

2. Old Business

- a. Commission reports
 - *Youth representatives - Invitations extended through environmental clubs at Hall and Conard. We are awaiting responses.*
 - *SAG Meeting Summary - Catherine Diviney, Joe Campanella, and Bernie Pelletier attended the meeting. The SAG meeting discussed the next steps for the SAG now that the Sustainable CT application is filed. The meeting talked through the various interests on the members. Matt Hart Town Manager shared his thoughts and added town priorities. The WHCEC along with other town commissions is looking to the SAG to help identify gaps in important sustainability initiatives and make recommendations for a better structure. There was discussion of how we on the WHCEC might help the SAG identify gaps and work to solve them..*
 - *Drive Electric Meeting October 7th <https://westhartford.librarymarket.com/events/your-electric-vehicle-questions-answered-virtual> WHCEC is hosting an event promoted through library which will be a non-technical Q&A session with 5 WH residents who own EVs so people can ask questions. Joe Campanella mentioned that VT has an AWESOME website www.driveelectricvt.com that CT should copy. DEEP's website is not great. Burlington VT may also be a good model for the structure/communication for the Town. But, David Rowe pointed out that they have a public utility.*
 - *Other reports – none*

3. New Business

- a. HeatSmart West Hartford - *Bernard Pelletier gave a status report on HeatSmartWH. Progress is being made in setting up a website and pulling together partners. Funding may be available from the Eversource CPEEEI program. Look at www.heatsmartct.org for examples of other towns.*
 - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with town – *awaiting approval from legal and risk.*
 - Partner search status – *Bernie mentioned several contractors that have been approached to work on the program for HES/ HES IE/ HVAC partners*
 - West Hartford volunteer team – *We need to think about recruiting volunteers for outreach team.*
 - IHMH discussion – *I Heart my Home is an energy concierge (hand holding) service that could be folded into HeatsmartWH program. <https://www.facebook.com/iheartmyhomect>*
 - Funding – *see CPEEEI grant*
- b. CPEEEI grant proposal review - *Bernard Pelletier gave a high-level review of the grant proposal which would cover mailings to residents, materials to support canvassing, website maintenance, funding for I Heart My Home (IHMH), and printed material. Catherine and Bernie are working on application due Oct 1.*
- c. Town Priorities
 - St Brigid Building - *Catherine informed the group that the building has been purchased and that building committee is being created to evaluate and contribute to plans for the site. We hope that the WHCEC will have a representative on the review board. Catherine hopes that the town will strive for LEED net-zero in the design. Eversource recently hosted a zero building conference. Bernie and Joe shared some information/photos from the passive house affordable housing tour they went on a few months ago.*
 - VW Settlement - *Catherine informed the group that the town is thinking about a request funds for EV charging stations in town. DEEP said there would be a webinar at end of Sept, but it has not been scheduled yet.*
 - American Rescue Funds – *Catherine reported that she thinks the ARPA funds are not going towards much on the facilities side even through lots of capital improvements – including HVCAC were submitted.*
- d. Change in solar incentive plans – *Bernie reminded group that anyday PURA will be coming out with the new solar program. WHCEC should do some outreach to explain differences. New program seems favorable.*
- e. Energy Plan Next Steps (pg 24 – attached) - *The WHCEC quickly reviewed the current short-term goals. It was noted that a number of them have been accomplished or are in process and that we should update this list and prioritize it – **this will be on the agenda in October.** Steve Sack suggested communication between commissions is a big thing and the Town might hire a consultant to look at a reorganization and communication lines between groups. Catherine mentioned that the SAG, Matt Hatt and staff also are looking at how to develop a more coordinated approach to energy/sustainability issues.*

4. Staff Report

- a. Energy Updates - *deferred*
- b. BEV Grant Proposal – *no update.*

5. Public Comment – *David Rowe expressed real interest in passive house and desire to learn more, and share some “crazy ideas” with the group. Dave and Bernie agreed that maybe we should start a list of “crazy ideas.” Send any ideas to Catherine.*

6. Adjournment – *Next meeting is scheduled for 10/27 @ 7 PM. Meeting adjourned 8:02 PM*

"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."

Next Steps

	2021-2022	Beyond 2022
General	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt resolution to support 100% by 2050 and new Energy Plan. 2. Give regular updates to Town Council, Public Works & Facilities subcommittee. 3. Develop effective network or means of reaching community on energy issues. 4. Re-think connection with Sustainable West Hartford. 5. Revamp Town's clean energy website. 6. Invite youth/high school representatives to join WH Clean Energy Commission. 7. Conduct heat pump education campaign. 8. Work with Social Services, to design and implement an energy outreach campaign focused on equity (e.g., LMI residents, renters). 9. Conduct outreach for Sierra Club's Ready for 100 campaign – goal of 2021 adoption. 10. Hold or partner on an electric vehicle event. 11. Identify public transit champions. 12. Recruit more community involvement in Sustainable CT. 13. Explore desire to create a broader Sustainability Plan, Climate Action Plan, Climate Justice, or Climate Resiliency Plan (to include a greenhouse gas inventory, transportation, waste/materials management, open space, etc.) with Town Council, and other appropriate Commissions; identify greenhouse gas inventory tool. 14. Update Energy Plan in 2022. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Join Sierra Club's Ready for 100 campaign. 2. Investigate potential for a microgrid in town. 3. Adopt policy to enable community choice aggregation. 4. Conduct energy saving tips or Energy Star appliance campaign. 5. Work with Town staff and zoning and planning commissions to explore how efficiency and clean energy adoption could be accelerated through municipal policy, building, zoning, and/or tax codes. 6. Adopt policy or promote zero-energy or no fossil fuel use in new construction. 7. Inventory brownfields for alternate use. 8. Restart Small Business Energy Advantage (SBEA). 9. Promote C-PACE financing of commercial projects. 10. Promote a top 10 sustainable things-to-do list. 11. Conduct a solarize campaign, including a community discussion of responsible and sustainable solar development in town and options for all. 12. Promote alternative mobility options to reduce vehicle-miles travelled. 13. Collaborate with other commissions to complete a greenhouse gas inventory and/or develop a municipal Climate Resiliency Plan. 14. Support focus on energy efficiency and clean energy industry and jobs as part of economic stimulus, development, and growth.
Municipal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disseminate quarterly communication on building performance. 2. Work with Recycling Coordinator; hold quarterly meetings with schools. 3. Review schedule of upcoming municipal capital improvement projects in conjunction with energy data; implement additional energy efficiency projects. 4. Analyze interval data for municipal buildings; develop plan to reduce peak demand; participate in demand response curtailment. 5. Update municipal fleet plans to include strategy for fuel reduction, fuel switching (e.g., biodiesel) and/or electrification. 6. Achieve Sustainable CT silver certification. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consolidate municipal facilities and programs into newer or renovated facilities that are more energy efficient, and do not rely on fossil fuels. 2. Reinstate WHPS Energy Challenge or explore additional ways to reduce municipal energy use (e.g., treasure hunts, night audits, town vs. town energy competition, project fund). 3. Develop a sustainable purchasing policy. 4. Expand policies to reduce miles travelled and fuel use in municipal fleet. 5. Additional municipal solar or virtual net metering projects. 6. Complete assessment of EV charging infrastructure and needs.