



**CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION
Virtual Meeting**

January 26, 2022 at 7:00 PM

This 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=N_6gtFNHAbs&t=25s

MEETING MINTUES

1. Meeting Opening – Call to order – 7:04 pm

- Roll Call – *Bernie Pelletier, Dave Mello, Catherine Diviney, Joe Campanella, Max Dubuisson. Stephen Sack. Members of the public: Nicholas Matone, Mark Meritt.*
- Approval of Meeting Minutes – Dec 15, 2021 - *approved*
- Vacancy/Youth representatives – *Bernie reached out to Lee Gold and talked to Mark Merritt but then learned that vacancy must be filled with a Republican. Catherine has been trying to connect with Alyson Booth (student, Hall HS). WH-CEC should “re-invite” more youth to join.*

2. Old Business

- Climate Crisis Resolution – *Town Council passed the Resolution on 1/25/2022. This is a really good thing. What matters most is how the Town follows through on it.*
- HeatSmart West Hartford
 - Status – *MOU mostly signed (waiting for Town Manager); partners/contractors in place; volunteer team is essentially formed; website being finalized with endorsement quote from Mayor: www.heatsmartct.org*
 - *Training with Eversource for \$20K grant Feb 7, 2022: 1-3 PM*
 - *Steve Sack talked about business engagement and a presentation he organized with Environmental System Corp (local contractor) to Elmwood business association. WH-CEC could spin this off as a separate business initiative. Catherine to send email to connect parties.*
- Review Community priorities for energy plan – *Updates were made to the Next Steps tracking slides in the Energy Plan.*

3. New Business

- Discussion of Commissions/Organizational Structure –
 - Short term vacancies – *Mark Merritt was approached but needs to be a “republican.” Revision of commission should provide for more opportunity and flexibility of members.*
 - Long term structure – *After discussion, Commission was in agreement to initiate a process, to “revise” the WH-CEC by ordinance, subject to a joint discussion between other related Commissions. Coordination between commissions and council/standing committees is an issue of concern.*
- School Infrastructure Plan – *ventilation improvement without energy loss (ERV). Catherine will confirm with Bob the plans for the \$11.5M in ventilation/HVAC funds for schools over 15 years. There was confusion about whether this funding is part of the ARPA allocation (and Lamont’s new priority) or regular BOE capital improvement plan. There was also*

discussion about the need for deeper comprehensive renovations or rebuilding versus the add-on Band-Aid approach which continues to be employed. Steve Sack suggested some concrete numbers of the 2 scenarios might help. At some point, the Town/BOE will take a more life-cycle approach and start thinking about a long-term building replacement plan despite some unpopularity.

- *Ground Mounted Solar ordinance review – Bernie and Catherine met with Todd Dumais 1/26 and initiated a joint process to look at whether our current regulation is too restrictive with regard to ground mount. We learned that the current regulations are more permissive than we thought, in that “carports” are allowed in all residential zones. Education around what is a permissible installation and what is not might be useful. Zoning staff will review regulations from similar towns. Catherine/CEC will research and pull together images of new applications and technologies to get a better sense of what is acceptable. We plan to reconvene in 3 weeks and then put this issue on the March WH-CEC meeting agenda.*
- *Town Municipal Energy priorities for 2022 plan – Catherine to update Next Steps tracking slides in the Energy Plan. Building performance data is a priority and will help long term planning. For example, Charter Oak has an Energy Use Index (kBtu/sf) of 35, while schools like Bugbee, Whiting Lane, and Webster Hill are all over 100.*
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4. Staff Report

- *Sustainable CT/ Sustainable Advisory Group Update – SAG will be presenting recommendations to Public Works, Plant & Facilities & Sustainability Committee hopefully in next 2-3 months. “Commission Clean-Up” will be included, among other things. An energy/sustainability report from Catherine has been added as a standing agenda item for this Committee.*
- *Energy Update/Budget – FY23 utility budget for both Town and BOE will be flat compared to FY22.*

5. Public Comment – none.

6. Adjournment – 8:46 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."