



**CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION  
Virtual Meeting**

**February 23, 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=9ZdwAYsAy\\_I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ZdwAYsAy_I)

**MEETING MINUTES**

- Meeting Opening – Call to order
  - Roll Call – *Bernie Pelletier, Catherine Diviney, Steve Sack, Christine Feely, Mark Merritt, Max Dubuisson*
  - Approval of Meeting Minutes – Jan 26, 2021, *approved*
  - Commission/Organizational Structure – *Discussion about this will be paused until after SAG presentation and broader recommendations (March 3).*
  
- Old Business
  - HeatSmart West Hartford – *Volunteer team met last night, Feb 22. 84 residents have expressed interest even without much outreach so far! Lots of events – Earth Day (at 100 Mayflower St), Celebrate booth, library events, etc. Welcome additional ideas from WH-CEC.*
  - Ground Mount Solar – *Bernie, Catherine and planning department collaborating on additional clarification & education on what is permissible and what is not, and what might be additional viable technology for installation on small lots. There is no date for a follow-on meeting yet. Christine Feely voiced support for exploration of options and expansion of solar canopies, especially for parking lots. Bernie agreed that canopies have substantial potential. PACE has done some research on this. Would like to put on future agenda for discussion.*
  - Business Education with Chamber & Econ Dev – *Steve Sack spearheaded a presentation in Elmwood which has now resulted in collaboration with Econ Dev and Chamber for further workshop and business outreach. Bernie is excited about this as the Commission did not have much success with business in the past. New programs, energy prices may help to make this successful; in addition to having the Chamber and Econ Dev as partners. Mark suggested emailing major talking points for her state of the town address.*
  
- New Business
  - SolSmart certification – *Catherine is trying to encourage the Town (Building & Planning Dept) to sign up for a free technical assistance available through Sustainable CT to become SolSmart bronze-certified, which is a US DOE program aimed at streamlining permitting process and other actions to encourage increased solar adoption. Town has looked at SolSmart in the past, and decided not to pursue, but would be good to revisit or at least assess where town is as a baseline. They will be meet to discuss signing a letter of commitment. Bernie expressed support for town doing this. 9 towns in CT are already SolSmart-certified.*
  - Solar WH Library session? – *Does anyone want to organize? Given that all the solar programs have changed in 2022, it would be a good idea to hold a webinar on solar and/or posted new*

information on Town's website. Mark Merritt suggested some additional platforms and people to use for this Commission to go "viral" and create a coordinated media campaign: John Lyons and Ronnie Newton Facebook live, Rocky Holland, Johnathan Harris (now at Eversource). Catherine mentioned that the Commission might be maxed out with HeatSmart to launch a solar campaign at the same time. Catherine volunteered to get a potential date from WH Library and start draft slides. People thought local residential testimonials and photos would be good to include, as well as residents who own vs lease, and financial benefits.

- Review SAG Presentation – Catherine walked the Commission through a preview of the Sustainability Advisory Group's draft presentation – which includes some organizational suggestions around Commissions – to solicit feedback and comments to share back with SAG. SAG had hoped to share presentation with other commissions, but timeline is too short. The SAG has additional meetings planned next week to finalize their presentation before they present to the Public Works, Facilities & Sustainability Standing Committee of the Town Council on March 3. General feedback was supportive, appreciated emphasis on collaboration between groups. **Really liked approach to convene joint commission meeting to discuss options.** There was also a concern that the presentation was very information dense. No changes will be made to presentation without checking with SAG first. Catherine will send presentation out for further comments.

- Staff Report

- Sustainable CT/Sustainable Advisory Group Update – see above.
- Capital Improvement Projects out to bid – Duffy, Webster Hill (energy language) – Catherine sent a follow-up email to the Commission after last month's meeting confirming that the Town has not allocated ARRA funds to school ventilation projects but the CIP - Capital Improvement Plan – does have allocated \$3M a year for 15 years to an Elementary School Air Quality project in 9 elementary schools. RFPs on 2 of the 9 projects that will target Windows and HVAC at Duffy and Webster Hill are on the street currently. Language was included around energy efficiency options, asking for:
  - "Recommendations to the heating, air conditioning, energy recovery, and the potential to use heat pump technology. The Town emphasizes the need for the best long-range strategy for the school which should consider indoor air quality, energy efficiency, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and ease of operation and maintenance"
- Energy Update/Budget – deferred.

- Public Comment – none.

- Adjournment

"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."