



**CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION
Virtual Meeting**

April 27, 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=IM2bgkMSE7Y>

MEETING MINUTES

I. Meeting Opening – Call to order

- Roll Call – *Commissioners: Bernie Pelletier, Dave Mello, Steve Sack, Max DuBuisson. From the public: Mark Merritt, Dan Becerra*
- *The virtual meeting information on the agenda needs to be updated – youtube is the only way to attend virtually*
- Approval of Meeting Minutes – March 30, 2022 – *approved.*
- Starting in May – in-person: *Likely meeting in town hall May 25.*

2. Old Business

- Solar Workshop – WH Library – April 19: *Over 40 people attended with Hannah Savage (Eversource), Chamae Meijas (Earthlight), Catherine Diviney and Bernie Pelletier (West Hartford): YouTube link is here: <https://youtu.be/iY3o-MGVItA>*
- HeatSmart: *So far 138 registrations through the program*
 - Apr 24 - Earth Day event: *Dan Becerra, Ted Loewenthal, Joe Campanella, Deb Roe, Christine Feely, Bernie Pelletier manned the table – great event – modest turnout*
 - *Monday evening IREJN put on presentation on Energy Efficiency as Eco Justice which mentioned HeatSmart as a way to easily connect to HES and HES IE*
 - June 11 & 12 – Celebrate WH: *plan to bring games to the Clean Energy booth*
 - Early June – *WH Library webinar: Air Source Heat Pump seminar to be scheduled*
- Business Education with Chamber & Econ Dev – May 5 10 AM: *Steve Sack, Kristin Gorski, Catherine Diviney, ESC (Environmental Services Corp.), Eversource, CT Green Bank, Chamber of Commerce, Elmwood Business Association, WH Center Business Association, Bishop’s Corners Business Association (some interest from other towns)*
- Ground Mount Solar: *No progress at this point*
- SolSmart: *Town is determining feasibility of applying for Bronze status*
- Elementary School Air-Quality Projects (9 schools, CIP - \$3M per year, 15 yrs.): *deferred to next meeting*
- EV/EVSE - CMAQ (CTDOT, Congestion Mitigation Air Quality) grant - \$20,952: *deferred to next meeting*
- Avon/CT River Valley Energy Fair – May 14: *intent is to promote and support this event so that the reach of all town energy commissions can be expanded by regional cooperation.*

3. New Business

- Joint meeting (Clean Energy, Ped Bike, Cons & Env't) – *early June – discussion of draft agenda and thoughts: discussion of creating a sustainability umbrella organization. The thought is to have the June Clean Energy Commission meeting host the other groups – so that dialogue can occur. Each commission has received the organizing documents for all three groups. Some discussion of issues of interest to commissioners:*
 - *Continue to have the energy commission engage with the town*
 - *Understanding the values of different forms of organizations – commission, task force, etc.*
 - *Bernie would like to put a GHG inventory to the sustainability group*
 - *Steve would like to improve communication between the commissions. Also discussed the need to investigate leaking Natural Gas and potentially have the town work to fix this problem*
 - *Dave concurred that the leaking gas issue needs to be resolved*
 - *Max concurred on the leaking gas issue and is also interested in the EV charging network in town. Agreed that a lot of work needs to be done to improve EV Charging network*
 - *Mark Merritt – proposed that town examine requiring property owners to install or permit to install EV charging stations. This could potentially be something that could be run through zoning*
 - *Steve Sack relayed that he has heard Eversource expressing concern about the ability of the grid to handle more chargers. Bernie to investigate.*
 - *Discussion of new electric storage (batteries).*
- *Town Sustainability website: deferred to next meeting*

4. Staff Report

- *Energy Update/Budget – deferred to next meeting*

5. Public Comment

- *Some discussion of our intent to resolve organizational issues about the structure and role of the commission. Mark and Dan are both interested in joining as commissioners once the process is settled*
- *Discussion of how much extra solar would be needed to support heat pump technology in a home – rough discussion was that a typical home needs a 7 KW system – adding a heat pump might add 5 KW – about 34 panels between the normal use and the heat pump add on. This needs to be firmed up.*
- *Discussion of why we don't use biodiesel in the CT transit busses. Seems like "low hanging fruit" to reduce GHG if we switch to more biodiesel.*
- *Discussion of world emissions of CO₂ and Methane which increase each year.*

6. Adjournment - 7:50 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."