



Minutes-CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION Virtual Meeting

October 26, 2022 at 7:00 PM

A recording of this Clean Energy Commission meeting may be found here:

<https://youtu.be/Mz7BBdeVHeg>

This meeting of the Clean Energy Commission was conducted as a virtual meeting. Meeting Opening – Call to order at 7:18PM

1. Roll call & approval of minutes – August & September
 - *WHCEC members: Stephen Sack, Catherine Diviney, Bernard Pelletier, Dave Mello*
 - *Conservation and Environment Commission: Emilee Scott, James Fishman, Shawn Daly, Kimberly Hughes*
 - *Students: Dawson Biondi, Nathaniel Goldschmidt*
 - *Guests: Roszena Haskins: WH Director of Equity Advancement, Katherine Bruns. Michael Cocca*
 - *Minutes approved – no objection*
2. Administrative – 2023 meeting schedule; vacancies – 1 (R)
 - *The two commissions agreed that Wednesday is the preferred day for our 2023 meetings*
 - *Shawn Daly indicated that he, through the Town Republican Committee, is working on finding minority party candidates to fill our vacancy*
3. Welcomes & intros – student reps and town equity staff (tentative)
 - *Dawson Biondi and Nathaniel Goldschmidt are members of the Hall Environmental Club*
 - *Roszena Haskins is West Hartford's Director of Equity Advancement and is attending commission meetings to look for opportunities to advance equity. One of her first priorities is to have the newly appointment Equity Coordinator work to improve equity in the commission appointment process.*
 - *Kim Hughes noted that in New Haven the climate emergency declaration has been passed by the Board of Education in that town and hoped a similar action might pass here in WH.*
 - *Katherine Bruns noted that WH has been chosen for a recycling grant – CCSM Waste Mitigation food waste grant. Katherine is looking for connections in the schools and will reach out to our High School representatives. Dawson Biondi was excited about the potential of this grant to extend efforts already in flight at Hall*

- *Catherine Diviney has met with the WH Schools to loop in the schools on sustainability/environmental matters*
- *Jim Fishman noted that Northwest Catholic and other private schools could be included – agreed to by all.*
- *Michael Cocca noted that new construction doesn't include clean energy inputs.*

2. Old Business

1. HeatSmart West Hartford

- *Education and outreach campaign – has met and exceeded its goal and will continue through 2023 with HES, HESIE, and SBEA programs*
- *Catherine Diviney noted that multifamily owners have responded favorably to our recent outreach. Roszena noted her office often gets calls in the winter on energy issues – and will work with HeatSmart!*

2. Insulation Workshop recap (10/20 recap)

- *Branched out to other towns – Branford, New Britain, and Stonington attended*
- *Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYfSLY93kSE&t=792s>*

3. New Elmwood Community Center

- *Tecton and Associates conducting a community engagement and feasibility survey: building will be net zero building*
- *Shawn Daly inquired about need for remediation*

4. Federal Legislation/Funds: (i) ARPA Sustainability Projects - \$140,000; (ii) Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) - \$137,000 EECBG; (iii) Inflation Reduction Act

- *Town Council approved the \$140,000 for three projects – tree canopy study, pollinator gardens, and rain gardens*
- *Kim and Emilee expressed interest on those projects*
- *Leisure services is the sponsor and is hosting the working group on these projects*
- *Town continues to work on IIJA grant application and explore the IRA potential for the town*

3. New Business

1. Korean visit (11/9)

- *The Korean visit which was prompted by Mayor Cantor winning the small-town climate award was scheduled for 9/9 to review the Virtual Net Metering project WH completed and the WH Clean Energy Plan*

2. Update on Sustainability Commission (Clean Energy, Cons & Env't, Ped & Bike)

- *Should we reach out to Design Review Advisory Committee*
- *Catherine discussed technical aspects of developing a new commission that would replace the Energy and the Environment commissions*
- *It was decided to form a working group (not a google doc) to address questions about creating a new ordinance to establish the new Commission – and then bring it back to the Commission for approval.*

3. Update to Energy Plan (or Sustainability? Climate Action? Plan)
 - *Use the Clean Energy Plan's priority list as an example of what we may do more broadly as a Sustainable West Hartford Commission*
 - *Discussion on building codes and zoning as an area to include in the next round of the plan. It was noted that energy is not a discussion area now for the Design Review Advisory Committee - and we should work to remedy that situation!*
 - *Roszana noted that she can assist in developing a process to improve membership representation across various elements of the town*
4. Staff Report – Sustainable CT awards (11/14), EV Charging, SolSmart, RECs, other.
 - *Catherine noted that WH will receive a Climate Leader award on 11/14!*
 - *Catherine noted that the town is placing an order for its first electric vehicle: a new Ford E-transit vehicle servicing the town nutrition services function. Catherine noted it was a long process.*
 - *EV Charging – the town is working on systematic charging network plan – that networks the chargers and ensures consistent chargers. The town will work with CCMs consultants*
 - *SolSmart is on hold until on line permitting process is implemented*
 - *Catherine will make an annual purchase of RECs*
 - *Dawson Biondi noted that her club is potentially raising money to get EV chargers – Catherine will connect Dawson to public works*
 - *Other:*
 1. *Kim notes the Green Leaf Schools' programs should be used in outreach to schools – specifically the "Assessment Tool"*
 2. *It was noted that future installations of EV charger will charge for electricity (as opposed to some chargers which are now free)*
 3. *Emilee encouraged us to work together on education efforts on electric lawn equipment*
5. Public Comment
 - *Emilee Scott, looking ahead, explored the Conservation and Environment role in pre screened zoning applications. She has explored this with Todd Dumais, the Town planner.*
 - *Emilee began discussion with Katherine Bruns re waste handling in CT.*
 - *Emilee resurfaced Chris Feely's submitted comments on planting native plants in town owned areas. Kim Hughes continued a land use discussion hoping to broaden outreach beyond just energy.*
 - *Stephen Sack offered to bring a waste expert to an upcoming meeting.*
6. Adjournment At 9:22PM

Anyone requiring auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or modification of policies or procedures to participate in a meeting, service, program or activity of the Town of

West Hartford, should contact Suzanne Oslander, ADA Coordinator, at suzanneo@westhartfordct.gov or (860) 561-7580, as soon as possible, preferably seven days beforehand.