

CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION

Virtual Meeting

December 19 at 7:00 PM

This meeting of the Clean Energy Commission was conducted as a virtual meeting. A recording of the meeting is available here: <https://whci.online/2022/12/22/conservation-and-environment-clean-energy-commission-special-virtual-meeting-of-december-19-2022/>

MEETING MINUTES

1. Meeting Opening
 - a. Roll call & approval of minutes
 - i. *Call to order 7:09 PM: Commissioners attending: Max DuBuisson, Steve Sack, Bernie Pelletier, Joe Campanella, Catherine Diviney. Others attending: Emilee Scott, Jim Fishman, Ted Newton,*
 - ii. *November minutes - deferred*
 - b. *Meeting schedule for 2023 – Mondays, in-person preferred, Catherine to finalize with Emilee & Bernie. Question for Town Clerk on whether phone-in/virtual counts to quorum.*
2. Old Business:
 - a. *Recap status of recycling pilot – Catherine will confirm, but last she heard was the contractor for the food waste recycling pilot would be put out to public RFP/bid.*
 - b. *Status of ordinance forming Sustainable West Hartford Commission – Corp Counsel has not gotten to this yet. Some recent issues related to development in the center of Town are taking priority.*
3. New Business
 - a. *Plan priorities for 2023 – New Plan might have energy as a chapter, Future Plan does not need to be a written document or power point could be online/website??*
 - *Max – Eversource bills, education about supplier options – renewable content, electric affordability*
 - *Joe – Nat gas leaks (center of town), building efficiency: primary focus on existing, not new construction (new energy code is strong), focus on outreach - 96% of energy use is COMMUNITY vs 4% TOWN*
 - *Steve – Traffic flow/lights, transportation, solar, water/MDC (Rick Bush)*
 - *Bernie – appliances, solar, EV charging, continued promotion of HeatSmart/Home Energy Solutions promotion & business efficiency, IRA/Federal Funds, GHG inventory, collaborate with DRAC – energy efficiency screens for new development, 4 strategies outlined in the Energy Plan – Input/Equity; Education/Outreach; Participation/Adoption;*
 - *Ted – electric lawn equipment education, PAYT/waste (community support)*
 - *Jim – cell service (IT), Buildings - occ sensors, controls, water efficient fixtures, replace paper towels with air dryers*
 - *Emilee – waste, energy, land management (gardens/native planting/pollinators conservation), stormwater/LID*
 - *Kim – schools, education, environmentally-friendly land management/grounds*
 - *Catherine – SUSTAINABILITY WEBSITE!!, collaboration with schools, Long-term facilities assessment and CIP planning, resurrect schools' competition or similar event, More resources*

allocated to planning & policy development: EV charging/parking, Dark night skies, other; Sustainable CT Gold (collaboration with other towns – e.g., 9 MDC towns)

b. West Hartford Center Infrastructure Master Plan:

<https://www.westhartfordct.gov/town-departments/planning-zoning/west-hartford-center-infrastructure-master-plan>

- i. *Bernie and Emilee attended. Encourage others to comment. Jim commented on ambitious timeline and cool interactive mapping tool with comments/strong opinions.*
- ii. *Catherine will try to get Duane to come to next CEC meeting to summarize issues relevant to these Commissions.*

c. Additional Notes

- i. *Commission should invite “guest speakers” to next meetings – Duane Martin/Engineering (Jan 23), Todd Dumais/TPZ, Grounds/DPW, etc.*
- ii. *Gas leaks – Sept 2022 EDF article on \$369B Inflation Reduction Act, which also mentions a re-focus on tackling methane leaks and their MethaneSAT project: <https://www.edf.org/article/inflation-reduction-act-victory-climate-heres-what-comes-next#>:*
- iii. *IRA: A link in this article also takes you to the info-graphic that Bernie loves: <https://www.edf.org/article/8-ways-inflation-reduction-act-can-save-you-money>*
- iv. *Town’s Sustainability website: still need to build out topic-based sections: <https://www.westhartfordct.gov/town-departments/sustainability>*
- v. *Katherine and Catherine had a productive discussion with Adrienne Billings-Smith, The Town’s Equity Coordinator <https://www.westhartfordct.gov/town-departments/office-of-equity-advancement>*

4. Staff Report

- a. *Town has purchased it’s first EV - a Ford E-Transit van to replace old Nutrition Services Van - will hopefully be delivered soon.*
- b. *Catherine is working on utility budget. Town will be overbudget on utilities this year (FY23) – mainly due to high unanticipated gas prices and water leaks. Leaks at Hall HS, Rockledge, and Fairview are ongoing issues which need to be a focus with CIP \$. Utility budget will go up for FY24. Town has several mechanisms in place to protect from year-to-year volatility – utility services fund, and fixed electric supply contracts.*
- c. *Additional discussion about water focus - addressing leaks with wells, water conservation in general working with MDC (Rick Bush, commissioner), neighboring 9 MDC towns, and talking to Duane about stormwater issues.*

5. Public Comment – none

6. Adjournment – 8:45 PM

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.