

## **CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION**

**November 30, 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 here: <https://youtu.be/BdOH-wQUQW4>

### **Meeting Minutes**

1. Meeting Opening – Call to order
  - a. Roll call & approval of minutes – October: *Minutes approved. Commissioners present: Catherine Diviney, Stephen Sack, Joe Campanella, Max DuBuisson, Bernard Pelletier. Members of the public present: Katherine Bruns, Emilee Scott Mooney, John Phillips (Director of Public Works), David Petrella, Ted Loewenthal, Kim Hughes, Dawson Biondi (Hall HS), Nathaniel Goldschmidt (Hall HS)*
  - b. Administrative (deferred to next meeting) – 2023 meeting schedule, review Commission webpage
2. Old Business (deferred to next meeting)
3. New Business
  - a. Blue Earth & Sustainable Materials Management Grant: Food Waste Pilot: *John Phillips – Director of Public Works took the Commission through a presentation on Sustainable Materials Management, the Food Waste diversion grant, and the issues surrounding choice of contractor to administer the grant. West Hartford is one of 15 towns to receive a grant. Mr. Phillips explained the crisis in waste management – statewide 330,000 tons were trucked out of state. Projected waste fees are projected to increase from 96 dollars per ton to over 130 dollars per ton. The town has responsibility – statutorily – to handle waste generated in its borders. Public works handled 27,000 tons of waste (all types including recycling) in FY22. Current programs include food waste diversion for 6 schools. Proposed program is a pilot – for 1 year 3 months to educate pilot participants followed by 9 months of collection to divert food scraps and testing unit-based trash (pay as you through). 700 households selected (trash – recycling – food waste collected on same day). BLUE Earth helped the State not the Town in setting up this program. Blue Earth is appreciated by the town but the town has a contractual relationship with Paine’s Inc. This contract was established in 2017. Mr. Phillips expressed concern about being viewed as in violation of that contract. This discussion – was followed up by a town council meeting the next day. Kim Hughes questioned whether the contract had been reviewed (it has). Mr. Phillips cautioned that if the pilot is put to an open selection process – it is not a guarantee that Blue Earth will get it. Katherine Bruns indicated that there will be door to door training! Mr. Phillips indicated that it will take some time to train residents but the hope is that ultimately WH can go to trash pick-up every 2 weeks instead of weekly. Mr. Phillips asked that the joint commission be mindful*

*and supportive of pay as you through and re thinking our approach to waste.*

- b. Draft Ordinance for Sustainability Commission: The commission reviewed the draft ordinance – recognizing that it had not yet had a Corporation Counsel review. Emilee took the group through founding of the Conservation and Environment Commission and the fact that consistency with the founding ordinance was desirable. It was proposed that the joint commission have 11 members. Mr. Pelletier recommended that resiliency be more emphasized in the ordinance. It was noted that the regulation is “an umbrella “and once set up in ordinance will be difficult to change. However much of the day-to-day workings will be in the joint commission’s power to chance by set up by-laws. Staffing will be managed by the town through a new application process that emphasizes diversity as well as technical strength. Kim Hughes notes that in addition to the application process – it is important to do outreach to WH residents to solicit interest from as broad a group of people as possible. Stephen Sack inquired whether we should have town councilors on the commission – Catherine noted that in the past the town councilors are often overcommitted and may not reliably attend. There was a broad discussion about further engagement with the schools in WH.*
- 4. Staff Report – Korean Visit, Sustainable CT Awards, utility budget, etc.: Most topics deferred to future meetings - Max reported on his trip to COP 27 in Egypt*
- 5. Public Comment - none*
- 6. Adjournment: 9PM*

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](mailto:suzanneo@westhartfordct.gov) or (860) 561-7580, as soon as possible, preferably seven days beforehand.