

CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION

June 26, 2023

7:00 PM, Room 217, Town Hall

Minutes

1. Opening / Call to order at 7:03
 - a. Roll call:
 - i. *Commissioners: Stephen Sack, Joseph Campanella, Max DuBuisson, Bernard Pelletier*
 - ii. *Members of the Public: Katherine Bruns, Christine Feeley, Nathan Goldschmidt, Ted Newton, Joe Catrino, Jim Fishman, Kim Hughes*
 - b. Approval of minutes – April - *Approved*

2. Old Business:
 - a. Working Group Updates
 - i. Celebrate WH! (temporary)
 1. *The Clean Energy/ Sustainable Land Care exhibit received modest traffic – thanks to Jim Henkel, Joe Campanella, Kim Hughes, Chris Feeley, Catherine Diviney, Bernie Pelletier for staffing*
 2. *The Trash booth received great and steady traffic all the time.*
 3. *Some discussion of combining the two next time*
 - ii. Sustainable Land Care (ongoing)
 1. *Meet with Leisure & Ground – TBD in July – Kim Hughes reports that they will meet with Town staff in July. Also notes that some parks in town are letting some of their land move out of mowed lawn to more natural uses*
 - iii. Waste (ongoing)
 1. DEEP pilot project
 - a. *Katherine Bruns reports that the food diversion has already diverted 12 tons of food waste. About 52% of test group is participating. There is no available data for the effect of Pay as You Throw. The plan is to move to a larger town wide effort in 6 months. Discussion centered on using dollars and cents as a talking point with residents*
 2. Create Waste Plan for West Hartford?
 - a. *There was discussion of creating a strategic plan for waste similar in structure to the Clean Energy Plan.*
 - i. *Concerns – it will be a lot of work, many of the strategies to reduce waste are not in the control of the town*
 - ii. *Plusses – it will help galvanize residents, even though it is not in the control of the town it will serve as a means to influence the state*
 - iv. Energy (ongoing)

1. Drive Electric Week Sep 22-Oct 1, 2023, (Sun 9/24 event)
 - a. *Will reach out to the Farmer's Market and Sierra Club to create an event*
 2. Business Outreach Proposal
 - a. *After vacation season we'll work with Kristin Gorski, WH Chamber, Eversource, Green Bank, and Environmental Systems Control to conduct a virtual (not in person) event.*
 3. Green House Gas Inventory
 - a. *No progress since last time. 2020 year done - next steps to reach out to ICLEI for validation and to work on 2016 through 2022. The GHG model is a way to bring in input about Waste – Water – Energy – and Sustainable Land Care*
3. New Business
- a. Sustainable West Hartford Commission – Approved by Council. Targeting Aug 22
 - i. *Discussion to keep working with two commission until September formation date. Katherine Bruns indicates that a number of applicants have been received*
 - b. Council meeting for appointments and dissolving of CECs.
 - i. *It appears that we'll be operational as a new Commission in September*
 - c. Collaboration with Planning & Zoning
 - i. Todd Dumais homework
 1. *No report*
 - ii. Interface with DRAC
 1. *Jim Fishman will reach out to DRAC to find ways for us to participate and have input*
 - iii. New projects – UCONN
 1. *Considerable discussion about how best to get involved with the Sustainability aspects of this development. Recognition that we don't have statutory authority but that we can:*
 - a. *Represent land use concerns (impervious surfaces, wetland preservation, species diversity, flood plain building, etc)*
 - b. *Advocate and educate on clean energy – building efficiency and use of renewable energy*
4. Staff Report
- a. *No report*
5. Public Comment (limit 3 min each)
- a. *Nathan Goldschmidt of Hall High School wanted to advocate for more solar on Hall High School roof – we responded that a small array is on the roof and that as the roof is updated more will be put on*
 - b. *Nathan Goldschmidt also expressed interest that student participation being part of the new commission – we assured him that it will be*
 - c. *Joseph Catrino attended the meeting on behalf of an energy committee forming*

around a group of homes and condos on Cassandra Lane – we connected him with an SBEA contractor and will follow up with more specifics. If this group is successful in getting solar on a condo – it may be the first group in CT to do that.

6. Agenda for Next Meeting
 - a. *Next meeting, we plan to devote a lot of the meeting to discussion of interfacing with DRAC and engaging with the UCONN development. For now, this project can be represented by the Sustainable Land Care work group and the Clean Energy work group*
7. *Adjournment – at 8:02 the Clean Energy Commission adjourned and the Conservation and Environment Commission called their meeting to order.*

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.