

Energy Use & Climate Change Commission

Monday, January, 10th 2022 7pm

Attendance

Commission Members

Lawrence Rosenthal – *Chair* Brendan Smith- *Vice Chair*
Alison Demaio, Henry Dynia, Martin Mador, Susan Kulis, David Cooper, Timothy McKee

Others in Attendance

Frederick Schramm
Ryan Keeler–*Commission Clerk*

Agenda

Call to Order

Mr Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 7:07pm

Approval of December 13th, 2021 Minutes

Mr Smith motioned to approve the minutes, Mr Mador seconded, minutes approved.

Public Comment of Agenda Items

There were no public comments

Old Business

Mr Smith mentioned a survey out in the town on improvements which include street lighting, otherwise there has been no update. Mr Rosenthal asked about town staffing. Mr Mador mentioned that some staffing needs council approval.

Mr Rosenthal moved on to EV charging stations and the progress needed from the legislative council. Ms Demaio saw charging stations being installed at Aldi's. The level of the chargers is unclear so far. The list the commission gave to the town on EV charging stations needs to be followed up on with the new administration. Mr Schramm clarified some information on EV charging stations and the role of Planning and Zoning. MEPG(Municipal Energy Planning Guide) has been approved into the POCD(Plan of Conservation and Development). Mr Rosenthal wants to get into the details on the MEPG to build the town's resiliency and energy independence. Commissioners debated the commissions projects and the need more cooperation from the legislative council and other town officials over the next few weeks.

Mr Rosenthal mentioned that the commission needs communication from the town on staffing and liaisons to help achieve the commissions projects and goals in the short and long term. Ms Demaio mentioned Biochar and anaerobic digesters. Mr Rosenthal and Ms Kulis described a more advanced digester that converts organic and some inorganic material into pellets used in fertilizer and sequesters the carbon which would otherwise be emitted in to the atmosphere. Mr Mador shared that Meriden will have a pilot program on food scrap collection. Ms Demaio will reach out to Joe DeRisi to coordinate with the Solid Waste & Recycling Commission. Mr Rosenthal described the process of the advanced digester.

New Business

Mr Dynia mentioned a new idea of electrifying roadways to charge vehicles with a EMF(electromagnetic field) as the cars drive over it. It's a very new idea that some cities are studying the implementation of this technology. The article cited by Mr Dynia calls it 'induction.' Utah State University is studying this currently. Mr Dynia mentioned the NH Register article on electric buses from this past Sunday. Ms Demaio mentioned the State's department dedicated to going electric in transportation and other industries to decarbonize energy production.

Mr Rosenthal mentioned that a North Haven Clean Energy Task Force would like to attend February's meeting to potentially collaborate on some ventures.

Mr Smith showed the survey of bicycle friendly communities and Hamden's failure to qualify. The document shows where Hamden needs to improve, from funding & staffing to infrastructure investments.

Mr Rosenthal mentioned Norwalk, Norwich and Wethersfield as towns who are doing well to implement Complete Streets and a desire to visit these towns. He then touched on micro-grids and battery storage. There are many bureaucratic hurdles to clear in order to make it happen.

Adjournment

Mr Cooper made a motion to adjourn, Ms Demaio seconded, meeting adjourned.