

# Energy Use & Climate Change Commission

Monday, May 10, 2021 7pm

This meeting was held via Zoom.

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## Call to Order

Mr. Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

## Commission Members

Lawrence Rosenthal – *Chair*

Brendan Smith- *Vice Chair*

David Cooper

Alison Demaio

Henry Dynia

Susan Kulis

Martin Mador

Timothy McKee

## Others in Attendance

Kathleen Schomaker – *Energy Efficiency Coordinator*

Bob Langdon

Beva Nall-Langdon

Alyssa Bussard – *Substitute Commission Clerk*

## Agenda

### Approval of April 12, 2021 Minutes

Chairman Rosenthal asked for any edits to the minutes from the meeting held on April 12, 2021. Ms. Nall-Langdon stated that her last name was misspelled a few times in the minutes. Mr. Cooper requested that his report written the month prior be attached to the minutes. After more discussion, it seemed as if there were not enough members who had read the minutes and thus the motion to vote for approval was tabled until the June meeting.

### Public Comment of Agenda Items

There were no comments put forth by the public regarding items on the agenda.

### Energy Efficiency Coordinator Report – Kathleen Schomaker

#### 1. Streetlighting Project Update

Ms. Schomaker reported that the streetlight project has been on hold but she spoke to the account representative to ask if they would consider just doing the private area lighting as a separate project this year. The representative said that yes that should not be a problem. This will save the municipality some money. The RFP continues to be in process for the streetlight system. In order to have the streetlights upgraded in 2022, the audit would need to be completed and the letter would need to be signed by June 1, 2021. Unfortunately this means they are not on track for a 2022 upgrade. This allows time for an audit.

#### 2. EVSE Toolkit Work, Webinars and next steps

There was no update at this time.

#### 3. Update on Sustainable CT

There was no update at this time.

#### 4. Complete Streets

Ms. Schomaker has shared her strategy for Complete Streets with Mr. Smith. She mentioned a bicycling certification program that has a low threshold for obtaining points. She hopes for volunteers to work on this project. In addition, Ms. Sarah Clark will send contacts and information to Ms. Schomaker regarding complete

streets. Ms. Schomaker stated that there should be a Complete Streets Team that is separate from this commission.

## 5. Other business

Ms. Schomaker reported that there is a group who will delve deeper into the presentation created by Mr. Langdon and Ms. Beva Nall-Langdon on Wednesday, May 12. The town GIS coordinator will be attending this meeting. After this meeting, there will need to be a conversation with United Illuminating regarding the feasibility for the locations to have the power available to power EV service equipment. Ms. Schomaker is hoping that at the meeting Wednesday there will be a thorough conversation regarding the Green Spot Project.

Ms. Schomaker was part of a conversation regarding the update of the Governor's Council on Climate Change. She shared that in regards to the Transportation Climate Initiative - there are legislative actions under consideration in Hartford that would sign us for the TCI. It is necessary to explain the benefits of this to the community. Opponents to this are calling it a "gas tax" which of course leads to issues. In actuality it is an attempt to address the air quality.

Save the Sound has put out a request for people to partake in "no mow May" as they state that if you do not mow your lawn until May you are assisting the pollinators. There is also a healthy lawns checklist to check out.

## New Business

### 1. Election of Officers

Mr. Rosenthal stated that the commission needs to elect new officers at the June meeting. He was told that he needs to appoint a secretary for the next meeting so that they can keep track of the nominations and voting. No one was appointed so the clerk will be responsible for keeping track of the nominations and voting as well as record the minutes during the June meeting.

## 2. Other

Mr. Mador asked the commission members if they would be interested in a Google Group focusing on energy. This will be completely separate from the Energy Use and Climate Change Commission. All commissioners present were interested in this and thus will be added to a Google Group which is essentially a mailing list or forum focusing on Hamden Energy.

## Old Business

### 1. EV School Bus Webinar Report – Middletown Cost Analysis Discussion from Webinar

There was no update at this time.

### 2. Beverly MA EV School Bus Case Study

There was no update at this time.

### 3. Additional EV Seminars

There was no update at this time.

### 4. MEP Progress Update – Larry Rosenthal

There was no update at this time.

### 5. Complete Streets Additional Discussion and Site Visits

There was no update at this time.

## 5. Other

Mr. Langdon and Ms. Nall-Langdon created a presentation which highlighted possible electric vehicle charging stations throughout town. The five places highlighted were:

a) The parking lot at Whitney Avenue and Ralston Avenue as the lot provides parking for nearby businesses, restaurants and healthcare facilities. The lot is visible from Whitney Avenue.

b) The parking lot at Whitney Avenue and School Street as the lot provides parking for nearby businesses, restaurants and healthcare facilities. The lot is visible from Whitney Avenue.

c) The parking lot for Farmington Canal Trail as this lot provides parking for people accessing the trail. The lot is highly visible from Sherman Avenue which is used to access the York Hill campus of Quinnipiac University.

d) The parking lot of the Miller Memorial Library as it would be available for patrons to use while they visit the library. It has an advantage being on Dixwell Avenue, and is not far from Whitney Avenue.

e) The parking lots of selected Hamden schools as they are used by faculty, staff and students. Many of the schools are visible from busy streets and EVs can be charged during school hours.

### Adjournment

Mr. Rosenthal asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Mr. McKee and seconded by Mr. Cooper. The motion was unanimous in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.