

Energy Use & Climate Change Commission

Monday, March 8, 2021 7pm

This meeting was held via Zoom.

Meeting Recording:

<https://zoom.us/rec/share/bfg6VISWF5qSLn2fdOXoQzokvwqdCqFIYRmC6n28sDOdWpU5rr41Uus534uPyfQ.Jwn2dLq3JVGvfbGL>

Access Passcode: W&98J=8o

Call to Order

Mr. Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Commission Members

Lawrence Rosenthal – *Chair*

Brendan Smith- *Vice Chair*

David Cooper

Alison DeMaio

Henry Dynia

Susan Kulis

Martin Mador

Others in Attendance

Kathleen Schomaker – *Energy Efficiency Coordinator*

Glen Cummings

Lauren Garrett

Bob Langdon

Timothy Mckee

Beva Nall-Langdon

Alyssa Bussard – *Substitute Commission Clerk*

Agenda

Approval of February 8, 2021 Minutes

Chairman Rosenthal began a discussion regarding the minutes from the meeting held on February 8, 2021.

These edits were as follows:

Mr. Langdon stated that Ms. Nall-Langdon's name was misspelled in the minutes. Additionally, the words "EV Road map" should be changed to, "EV Roadmap" throughout the minutes.

A Ms. Sarah Clark of Haverford Street had emailed regarding changes to the meeting minutes in regards to her speaking points made on February 8, 2021. Mr. Rosenthal read these edits to the commission and stated that the edits were also sent to the Commission Clerk Patrice LeMoine.

Though Chairman Rosenthal stated that only Commission members may make changes to the minutes, Mr. Smith stated that he will take up these changes put forth by Ms. Clark, Mr. Langdon, and Ms. Nall-Langdon. Hearing this, Chairman Rosenthal asked for a motion to approve the minutes once the edits have been made by the Commission Clerk. Mr. Mador made a motion which was seconded by Ms. Demaio. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment of Agenda Items

Ms. Sarah Clark of Haverford Street spoke regarding a two day seminar that was held under UCONN regarding Complete Streets. She will send Mr. Rosenthal a link to the documents from this seminar so that he can send them to the commission members.

Ms. Sarah Clark also spoke regarding the next traffic authority meeting on Tuesday March 16. She stated that it is her understanding that at that meeting, Chief Sullivan will recommend that they send a letter to the Department of Transportation expressing interest in the road diet for Whitney Avenue from Skiff Street to the New Haven line.

General Comments – Brendan Smith

Mr. Smith had no comments at this time.

Energy Efficiency Coordinator Report – Kathleen Schomaker

1. Streetlighting Project Update and Next Steps – Tentative timetable

Ms. Schomaker stated that the draft proposal is on the desk of the purchasing agent. The hope is that this will be processed by the purchasing agent by the end of March which means the RFP can go out in the next few weeks. Responses to this must then come in, and the review team will meet again to go over the responders and make a selection.

2. EVSE Toolkit Work, Webinars and next steps

Ms. Schomaker stated that in 2021 we have the opportunity to and have applied to participate in a nine month multi-state training program. There is now a Traffic Authority Commissioner who came to the module and has followed up with some information from the police department. Additionally, Chief Sullivan stated that they have put in a request for five new vehicles for the Police Department and out of the five, there are hopes that one will be an electric vehicle. Two commissioners from the Economic Development Commission will also be joining some of the modules.

3. Update on Sustainable CT

Interns have been hired to advise participating municipalities. Technical assistance is being offered. The intern assisted Ms. Schomaker in reviewing what has already been uploaded and was told that the town is in "good shape" for being certified this year. Ms. Schomaker will work with town officials to ensure that we are doing our equity actions to comply with the toolkit requirements. She will be submitting for an April review and then August 7 is the next deadline. The Municipal Energy Plan is what is expected to come from this commission.

4. Other business

Ms. Schomaker shared that she had a phone conversation with a Mr. Rich Jordan who is the President of the CT State Tesla Association. The conversation was in regards to the Hamden Plaza having new and upcoming Tesla service equipment. She stated that she will get in touch with United Illuminating to find when this would be complete. There are hopes to have an event to celebrate this in May to celebrate this opportunity of economic development regarding the electric vehicle revolution.

Ms. Schomaker asked if someone would be on point for tracking the Transportation Climate Initiative - the TCI. She became aware of a Senate bill in front of the CT State Legislature regarding an endorsement of the transportation climate initiative. Mr. Cooper stated he would be on point for this.

This year the town will apply to participate in the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) to allow the city to purchase a service agreement. CCM works with energy broker vendors who will go to auction regarding bulk electricity purchase. The council needs to pre-approve the contract.

Mr. Rosenthal left the meeting at 7:51PM and Mr. Smith took over as vice chairman.

Old Business

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

This was tabled and added to the next meeting agenda as Mr. Rosenthal was unavailable.

2. Beverly MA EV School Bus Case Study

This was tabled and added to the next meeting agenda as Mr. Rosenthal was unavailable.

3. Additional EV Seminars

Mr. Smith asked the commission if everyone is able to access these seminars. Ms. Schomaker will send the information out to the commission members.

4. MEP Progress Update – Larry Rosenthal

This was tabled and added to the next meeting agenda as Mr. Rosenthal was unavailable.

5. Complete Streets Additional Discussion and Site Visits

No further comments were made on this agenda item.

5. Other

Mr. Smith sat in on a Complete Streets meeting for New Haven. The Town Engineer spoke regarding enacting Complete Streets items on the New Haven side of Whitney Avenue. He was wondering if Hamden is considering this as well. Ms. Schomaker stated that New Haven actually owns their section Whitney Avenue and Hamden does not, the state of CT operates and maintains over Whitney Avenue in Hamden. This all means that Hamden needs to work with the Department of Transportation in Hartford regarding Complete Streets.

Adjournment

Mr. Smith called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Cooper made the motion which was seconded by Mr. Dynia. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:22PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alyssa Bussard
Substitute Clerk for the Library Board