

AVON CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
November 15, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:09pm by Chairperson Carrie Firestone in the Avon Room at the Avon Town Offices. Members Present: Carrie Firestone, Bernie Zahren, Christine Winter, Michael Dawson. Staff Member Present: Grace Tiezzi, Assistant Town Manager. Members Absent: Kim Stevenson, Michael Guerrero, Daniel Carvalho, Anagha Bhumireddy-Student Member.

II. APPROVAL OF THE PRECEDING MINUTES

On a motion from Ms. Winter and second from Mr. Zahren, the minutes of the October 18, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

III. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE – None

IV. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION

Ms. Winter provided an update on the Senior Center event. Ms. Tiezzi stated that 46 homeowners have signed up for home energy audits. Ms. Firestone reminded the Commission about the December meeting cancellation and upcoming events. Ms. Tiezzi stated that the Commission was invited to West Hartford on November 27th for the Regional Climate Action Plan. The Commission continued discussions regarding the effects of climate change and hazard mitigation. The Commission discussed reelections.

V. OLD BUSINESS

a. Town-wide Energy Plan – Visioning & Goal Setting

Ms. Firestone stated for the record her admiration for Ms. Tiezzi's aesthetic skills.

Ms. Tiezzi provided an update on the draft of the Town-wide Energy Plan and the latest changes to the plan. Ms. Tiezzi shared Ms. Stevenson's input regarding the importance of data-driven information and phrasing. Ms. Tiezzi stated that she would like feedback from the Commission.

Ms. Winter provided some feedback and had a question about the use of diesel for the Town.

Ms. Tiezzi stated that essentially the use of diesel is based on the Town's snowplows and fluctuates based on the winter weather.

Mr. Zahren stated that conversion kits to convert diesel- or gas-powered vehicles to be hybrid are coming, but the technology is still in the embryo stage.

The Commission continued discussion regarding the Energy Plan and a celebration after the plan is approved.

b. Green Up! Avon Sustainability

Ms. Firestone provided an update on the Doug Tallamy lecture.

The Commission brainstormed opportunities for community involvement and potential events in Spring 2024.

c. Fall/Winter 2023 Programming Schedule

The Commission discussed the remaining Fall/Winter programs for 2023.

d. Ongoing Project Updates

i. CT Green Bank Solar Marketplace Assistance Program

Ms. Tiezzi stated that the company doing the solar panel work at Roaring Brook and Avon High School was demobilizing and performing final system inspections.

The Commission discussed ideas for a ribbon cutting ceremony.

ii. EV Charging Stations

No Update

VI. NEW BUSINESS - None

VII. ADJOURN

Ms. Winter motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:37pm. Ms. Firestone seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted:
Chairperson Carrie Firestone

Attest: Nicole Chambers, ACEC Clerk