

AVON CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
September 20, 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, Christine Winter, Michael Dawson, Michael Guerrero. Student Member Present: Anagha Bhumireddy. Staff Member Present: Grace Tiezzi, Assistant Town Manager. Members Absent: Bernie Zahren, Daniel Carvalho.

II. APPROVAL OF THE PRECEEDING MINUTES

On a motion from Ms. Winter and second from Mr. Dawson, the minutes of the August 16, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

On a motion from Mr. Dawson and second from Ms. Stevenson, the minutes of the July 19, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

III. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE

Varda Bajpai from the Avon High School National Arts Honor Society was in attendance to inquire about logistics and timeline for the tree project at the Avon Library. Ms. Tiezzi provided an update from Glen Grube, Library Director. The Commission discussed ideas for the design of the tree. Ms. Firestone suggested Ms. Bajpai provide a few sketches as soon as possible. Ms. Bajpai stated she would send a few sketches and an idea of cost to Ms. Firestone for approval from Mr. Grube and the Commission.

IV. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION – NONE

V. OLD BUSINESS

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

Ms. Tiezzi stated that Bernie Pelletier from PACE had completed the Town and BOE annual energy use based on the data he was provided and now he will be working with Mark Scully to integrate that into the overall energy model. Ms. Tiezzi stated that her hope was to be able to provide another update in October.

Ms. Tiezzi provided an update on the energy data management and suggested tabling the proposal for an additional staff person at this time.

b. Green Up! Avon Sustainability

Ms. Firestone provided several updates regarding upcoming activities, community events, and the visit to Barkhamsted.

Ms. Stevenson provided an update regarding the course she is taking at MWCC.

The Commission discussed flooding and storm water management.

Ms. Firestone provided an update for the LaFesta event at the Italian Club and thanked Mr. Guerrera for his table runner contribution.

Ms. Firestone stated that Aiello came to her home for an inspection because they had a cancellation and that Aiello stated they have had multiple cancellations because they are finding mold in something like 50 percent of homes in Avon. The Commission continued discussion about the age of homes in Avon and mold issues.

Ms. Bhumireddy provided an update on the food waste and composting project she has been working on at Avon High School.

Mr. Guerrera shared some statistics from the unofficial Commission goals activity tracking he has been compiling. Ms. Winter stated the information would be the perfect thing to design a presentation to the Town Council at some point.

c. Fall/Winter 2023 Programming Schedule

Ms. Firestone provided an update regarding all upcoming programming.

Ms. Winter inquired about the invasive pull therapy event and Ms. Firestone stated that it had been tabled for right now to make sure they get it right. The Commission continued discussion about pull therapy and invasives. Ms. Stevenson stated the topic may be a great question as part of the Doug Tallamy event because he is partnered with the World Wildlife Federation which provides homegrown national park certifications.

Ms. Winter suggested unveiling the tree at the Library book sale event. Ms. Firestone stated she would reach out to Lisa Berman.

Ms. Winter inquired about the Senior Center event. Ms. Tiezzi stated she would reach out to Jennifer Bennett to get some dates.

Ms. Tiezzi stated that pumpkin composting will take place the Saturday after Halloween and she would inquire about the bin for collection.

d. Ongoing Project Updates

i. CT Green Bank Solar Marketplace Assistance Program – NONE

ii. EV Charging Stations

Ms. Tiezzi provided an update for the funding sources and different rules for each. Ms. Tiezzi stated that because there is a grant for the project, it will have to go through a supplemental appropriation. Ms. Tiezzi explained that the Town Council and Board of Finance will both have to approve the funds and that her intention was to get the grant for the charging station on the October agendas because the project cannot start without full approval.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. ADJOURN

Mr. Guerrero motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:37pm. Mr. Dawson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted:
Chairperson Carrie Firestone

Attest: Nicole Chambers, ACEC Clerk