

**AVON CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION
AVON ROOM BLDG. #1 TOWN HALL
MINUTES
October 17, 2018**

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Chairman Bernard Zahren in the Avon Room, Building 1, Town Hall. Members present: Chairman Bernard Zahren, William Shea, Christine Winter, Venkata Anupaju, Richard Kretz and Jeffrey Macel. Staff member present: Grace Tiezzi, Assistant to the Town Manager.

II. APPROVAL OF THE PRECEDING MEETING MINUTES – August 15, 2018

Mr. Shea made a motion to approve the August 15, 2018 minutes as written. Mr. Macel seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

III. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE – None.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Avon Village Center Update/Microgrid Update

Ms. Tiezzi stated that the Commission members have a memorandum from Hiram Peck, Director of Planning & Community Development, regarding the progress on the Avon Village Center development. She stated that in late July, the Planning & Zoning Commission approved detailed site plans for phase 1 of the AVC. Detailed site plans include the placement and design of the buildings that will be constructed. She stated that the approval included the requirement that the developer return to the Commission within six months with a detailed infrastructure plan which should include sewers, electricity, water, etc. Ms. Tiezzi stated that she thought that she would invite Mr. Peck to attend the Commission's February 2019 meeting to discuss these infrastructure plans as this would be an appropriate time for the Commission to weigh in on the development. She stated that while we initially thought that the developer would be on site doing excavation this fall, it's more likely that we will not see any work on site until the spring due to the death of the company's owner and subsequent reorganization.

Ms. Tiezzi also updated the Commission on the status of the DEEP Microgrid Grant Program. She stated that she spoke to Veronica at DEEP who stated that the Department was still in the process of evaluating the applications that were submitted under the previous round. It was taking much longer than anticipated due to the new factors that were included in this round of applications such as reimbursement for batteries. Ms. Tiezzi stated that according to Veronica, DEEP has no plans at this time to advertise for another round of grant applications. She also stated that when Veronica was asked if the bonded funding was still going to be available after this round is awarded she stated that she could not be sure, it will depend on how much money is awarded through the current round of applications. DEEP may need to go back to the Bond Commission to request funding for future rounds.

Ms. Winter inquired about the possibility of putting out another RFP. Mr. Zahren replied that we would be putting in a lot of work for something that may not happen. Ms. Winter stated that she thought we might even have more options for system components than we did the last time we did an RFP as technology has advanced.

Mr. Zahren stated that there are a lot of developers that would come in and install a turnkey system for the Avon Village Center developer. He stated that you would still have to find a use for the waste heat. He inquired if it would be appropriate for members of the Commission to speak to the developer regarding different energy efficiency measures that could be employed in the AVC. Mr. Macel stated that this would be a perfect case study for a public private partnership. Mr. Shea stated that the Town has to be very

careful with regards to approaching the developer regarding these items. Ms. Tiezzi suggested that the Commission should use Hiram as a conduit to the developer. She stated that if you have ideas as they develop their infrastructure plans that the commission members might submit them in writing and she can pass them to Hiram who can in turn approach the developer.

Goal Setting

Mr. Zahren complimented Mr. Phelan on his contribution to the October Town newsletter regarding cycling. He stated that it was a very nice article and he hoped the Commission could continue to submit articles in coming newsletters.

Mr. Kretz explained that several commission members emailed him their ideas for long and short term goals at the end of the August meeting. However, he had computer troubles and was unable to bring everyone's ideas together in time for tonight. He hoped to pull something together to distribute to the group over the next several weeks and for inclusion in the Commission's December agenda packets for discussion.

Mr. Zahren proposed that the Commission request a change in its charge from the Town Council to include a specific statement charging the Commission with reducing the Town's carbon footprint, rather than just achieving monetary savings. The Commission concurred that it would like to suggest revisions to its charge. Mr. Shea suggested that Mr. Zahren draft his proposed changes to send to Ms. Tiezzi.

Ms. Tiezzi stated that at the August meeting, Ms. Winter requested that staff review the Appendix of the 2012 Comprehensive Energy Management Plan which contained recommendations for energy conservation measures. Ms. Winter requested an update on which projects have been completed and which were still outstanding. Ms. Tiezzi walked the Commission through the Board of Education's projects and the Town's projects. For the most part the projects are completed or ongoing as funding allows. Some larger projects such as HVAC or boiler replacements are to be determined as the current equipment functions well and is not due to be replaced. A few projects were determined to be unnecessary or cost prohibitive. Ms. Tiezzi stated that she would follow up with the Director of Public Works and the BOE Director of Facilities to determine what, if any, energy improvement projects are going to be proposed in the FY19-20 budget.

Ms. Winter asked if the Commission could find an expert to assist in developing a strategic plan.

A brief discussion was had regarding electric vehicles and electric school buses. A discussion was had regarding sidewalks in the area of Thompson Road. Mr. Anupoju requested that the Town look at a left turn only lane on West Avon Road turning into the Avon Middle School driveway. Ms. Tiezzi explained that this was most likely not possible as West Avon Road is a state road maintained by the DOT. She also explained that the Town is doing some work with the DOT to make improvements to the intersection of West Avon Road and Country Club Road which may improve traffic flow in the area.

Legislative Updates

Mr. Macel discussed virtual net metering legislation which would allow the town to do more public private partnerships.

Information about Upcoming Seminar Sponsored by PACE

Mr. Zahren passed out flyers for a workshop called "Time for 100%" sponsored by PACE. The workshop is being held Thursday November 8th from 11-2 at 224 EcoSpace in Hartford.

V. DO ANY BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THIS MEETING

Mr. Anupoju made a motion to add the approval of the 2019 Meeting Schedule to the agenda. Mr. Macel seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Anupoju made a motion to approve the 2019 Meeting Schedule as presented. Mr. Macel seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**AVON CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION
2019 MEETING SCHEDULE**

The Avon Clean Energy Commission will meet the third Wednesday of the even-numbered months (i.e. February, April, etc.) at the Avon Town Hall, Avon Room—Building #1, 60 West Main Street at 7:00 p.m.

February 20, 2019
April 17, 2019
June 19, 2019
August 21, 2019
October 16, 2019
December 18, 2019

VI. ADJOURN

Mr. Shea made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. Ms. Winter seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted:
Chairman Bernard Zahren

Attest: Grace Tiezzi, Assistant to the Town Manager