

AVON CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
October 18, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm by Chairperson Carrie Firestone in the Board Room at the Avon Free Public Library. Members Present: Carrie Firestone, Bernie Zahren, Christine Winter, Michael Dawson, Michael Guerrero. Student Member Present: Anagha Bhumireddy. Members Absent: Daniel Carvalho. Staff Member Present: Grace Tiezzi, Assistant Town Manager.

II. APPROVAL OF THE PRECEEDING MINUTES

On a motion from Mr. Guerrero and a second from Mr. Zahren, the minutes of the September 20, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

III. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE

Ms. Bajpai from the Avon High School National Arts Society was in attendance to discuss the tree project and ask additional questions of the Commission.

The Commission continued discussion regarding the tree project.

IV. COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION

Ms. Winter provided an update regarding the Avon Free Library Book Sale event.

Ms. Firestone stated she would speak to Glenn Grube and provide a small table for the children's book sale event.

Ms. Tiezzi stated that Mike Murray left Aiello, but that she heard back from another contact, and 42 households had signed up for audits.

Ms. Bhumireddy provided an update on her door-knocking, invitation to speak at the Connecticut Outdoor & Environmental Education Association conference in December, and the food waste project at Avon High School.

Mr. Firestone provided an update on her door-knocking.

Ms. Winter stated that she was finding quite a few homeowners had already had home audits, and she would like to focus on the older houses.

The Commission discussed greenwashing, wind farms, clean nuclear, and ocean swell energy.

V. OLD BUSINESS

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

Ms. Tiezzi stated she continues to work with PACE on the municipal energy use model. Ms. Tiezzi stated that they had calculated the Town and Board of Education's annual energy use based on the data provided to them, and she was drafting a municipal use section to add to the Plan. Additionally, Ms. Stevenson, Ms. Firestone, and Ms. Tiezzi met to review recommendations in detail, and they scheduled

two more meetings to continue refining the plan. Ms. Tiezzi stated the hope was to have an updated draft to present to the Commission in November.

b. Green Up! Avon Sustainability

Ms. Firestone stated that the Doug Tallamy lecture was coming up, and Trivia Bingo on November 16th. Ms. Firestone asked the Commission to share the graphic Ms. Tiezzi provided regarding the pumpkin composting. Ms. Firestone stated that on November 7th there is a talk about clean energy at the Senior Center and a short presentation will be provided about home energy solutions and other activities of the Commission.

Ms. Winter stated that the home energy audit fee will increase to seventy-five dollars in January.

Mr. Dawson provided information regarding purchasing solar panels and the Project Sunroof website.

The Commission continued discussion regarding sustainability.

c. Fall/Winter 2023 Programming Schedule

The Commission discussed the developing fall/winter programming schedule.

d. Ongoing Project Updates

i. CT Green Bank Solar Marketplace Assistance Program

Ms. Tiezzi provided an update that all major system components had been installed at Avon High School and Roaring Brook, and crews were working on final attachments and electrical components.

The Commission discussed a ribbon cutting ceremony.

ii. EV Charging Stations

Ms. Tiezzi provided an update that the Town Council approved the supplemental appropriation request for the VW grant at their October meeting. The request will appear on the Board of Finance's October 23rd meeting for consideration and once approved, the project could move forward. Ms. Tiezzi stated that she also put in a Capital Budget request for additional seed money for charging stations.

The Commission continued discussion regarding locations for future charging stations and climate change.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approve 2024 Meeting Schedule

On a motion from Ms. Winter and a second from Mr. Guerrero, the 2024 Meeting Schedule for the Avon Clean Energy Commission was unanimously approved.

VII. ADJOURN

Ms. Winter motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:27pm. Mr. Guerrero seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted:
Chairperson Carrie Firestone

Attest: Nicole Chambers, ACEC Clerk