

**AVON CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
April 17, 2024 7:00pm**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by Chairperson Carrie Firestone in the Avon Room at the Avon Town Offices. Members present: Carrie Firestone, Christine Winter, Michael Dawson, Michael Guerrera. Members Absent: Venkat Anupoju, Jeffrey Landsberg, Kim Stevenson, and student member Anagha Bhumireddy. Staff Member Present: Grace Tiezzi, Assistant Town Manager

II. APPROVAL OF PRECEDING MINUTES

On a motion from Mr. Dawson, and a second from Mr. Guerrera, the minutes of the February 21, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

III. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE - NONE

IV. COMMUNICATION FROM COMMISSION

Mr. Guerrera shared that he heard the Chairman of Town Council, Dan Polhamus, reported out to the DTC that the Community Energy Plan presentation was impressive and seemed very well thought out and thorough.

V. OLD BUSINESS

a. Community Energy Plan-Implementation

Ms. Firestone informed the Commission that the Plan was so good, Simsbury wants to copy it. Ms. Firestone stated that the Earth Day event went well, was a good networking day, and asked Mr. Guerrera to write something up about the event.

Mr. Dawson asked if data could be collected to see if residents or non-residents are using the EV charging station at the Avon Library.

Ms. Tiezzi replied that the EV charging station information is collected by a third party. Ms. Tiezzi stated that she heard from Mark Massaro at Eversource, and they will be pausing their rebate program starting in May for the EV chargers.

The Commission continued discussion on implementing short-term goals of the Community Energy Plan.

b. Green Up! Avon Sustainability Initiative

Ms. Firestone provided an update from student member Anagha Bhumireddy regarding the tree for the Avon Library and that she would like to do something to recognize Anagha's commitment to the environment.

Ms. Winter stated she would like to know the names of residents that signed up for the home energy audits to see if door knocking has been effective.

Ms. Tiezzi stated the number of households signed up is 53 and she would try to get the names and/or addresses.

The Commission continued conversation.

c. Spring 2024 Programming Schedule/Events Calendar

Ms. Firestone stated that there is an upcoming event at the Simsbury Library on May 4th where the Commission will have a table.

The Commission brainstormed ideas for the event.

Ms. Firestone mentioned Bayard Faithful, a member of Simsbury's Sustainability Committee, and that he plans to write an article about Avon's new Community Energy Plan.

Ms. Firestone stated that she spoke to Mark Scully about holding another Solarize Farmington Valley event potentially in the Fall.

The Commission continued discussing solar energy.

Ms. Firestone would like to make Summer a priority to talk about heat pumps as well.

Ms. Winter stated that the tough thing is Kim Stevenson has concerns about heat pumps.

Mr. Dawson asked if Ms. Winter meant concerns with heat pump leaks.

Ms. Firestone stated that the representative from Energize CT, off the PACE website made her feel better about heat pumps.

The Commission continued discussing heat pumps.

Ms. Firestone would like to invite Chuck Corsi, public relations, for Vessel Technologies to the ACEC meeting in May to talk about the potential new apartment complex on Avonwood Road.

Ms. Firestone stated that Chris Gracer met with Paul Hoekman to discuss natives being planted at the library.

Ms. Tiezzi stated that Glen Grube needs to be involved regarding planting and possible funds for native plants at the library.

The Commission continued discussing other events and programming.

The Commission discussed a potential internship with the Commission.

Mr. Dawson asked about recognizing Bernie Zaharan.

Ms. Firestone stated that if the citation is ready before the next Town Council meeting, the Commission will invite Bernie to the meeting to be recognized.

Ms. Tiezzi shared additional upcoming events.

Mr. Guerrera provided a brief update on the loose goals for the Avon Clean Energy Commission.

VI. NEW BUSINESS – NONE

VII. ADJOURN

Mr. Guerrera motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:57pm. Mr. Dawson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted:
Carrie Firestone, Chairperson

Attest: Nicole Chambers