

AVON CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION  
AVON ROOM BLDG. #1 TOWN HALL  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
December 12, 2019

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The special meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairman Zahren in the Avon Room, Building 1, Town Hall. Members present: Bernie Zahren, William Shea, Jeffrey Macel, Christine Winter and non-voting student member Neel Srinath. Members absent: Richard Kretz, Don Phelan and Venkata Anupaju. Advisory member absent: Johnathan Craig. Staff member present: Grace Tiezzi, Assistant to the Town Manager.

II. APPROVAL OF THE PRECEDING MEETING MINUTES – October 16<sup>th</sup>

Mr. Shea made a motion to approve the October 16, 2019 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 Discussion

A meeting was recently held with the Carpcionato Group, the Town Manager, as well as others. Mr. Zahren stated that the developer is eager to make the Town Center development “green”. Of the nine items that were requested by the ACEC, the developer is already meeting seven of them, at least with regard to the Whole Foods building. At that meeting it was announced that the developer may be taking 3 acres of the property and putting in two or three 1.5 megawatt wind turbines. Mr. Zahren stated that these turbines could be the anchor generation for the Town’s microgrid.

As the site is being tore up and the roads are being put in, the distribution loads could be put in at the same time. It is less expensive during this phase of development. Mr. Zahren stated that there was not much consideration by the developer regarding putting the proper wiring and piping below the streets for the microgrid prior to paving.

Mr. Zahren stated that he received an unsolicited email from Michael Sahm, Independent Consultant today. He and Chris Bleuher of Schneider Electric have submitted a proposal to the ACEC, which is open for discussion tonight. Mr. Sahm is willing to do a complete evaluation of the feasibility of the microgrid. After a short discussion, there was a consensus among the Commission members that having an evaluation would be beneficial. Mr. Shea stated that this may require an RFP. Although this Commission does not have the authority to accept the proposal, they recommended that it be passed on for consideration to the Town Council.

Mr. Shea made a motion that the Avon Clean Energy Commission recommends that the Town Council consider engaging a consultant, with an estimated bid amount of \$2,500, to study the feasibility of a microgrid installation for the AVC development and Town Hall and to review whether or not this activity

can be included as part of the Town's Sustainable CT submission. Ms. Winter seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

#### 100PercentCT project of People's Action for Clean Energy (PACE)

Mr. Scully made a presentation to the Avon Clean Energy Commission members regarding a baseline energy assessment; helping Towns transition to 100 percent renewable energy; as well as to provide materials and resources. They have looked into Avon's utilities; he presented data with actual Avon numbers. PACE helps towns quantify their energy use and look at how to transition to 100 percent renewable energy. They start with looking at how much energy the Town is using, including all types of energy and they figure out how much energy could be reduced. PACE also looks at how much energy could be produced by the Town.

Mr. Scully stated that PACE's model is an ambitious one. In order to get to 100 percent, they will need to be much more efficient in their buildings, building codes, appliances, etc.

Mr. Pelletier continued the presentation stating that because this is based on Avon's grant list, they are able to look at the Town in tremendous detail. He showed the members examples of solar in other towns and states. Avon needs to start thinking about sites within Avon that they might use for solar or car ports, etc. As the Town gets more efficient over the years, the load will be driven down. Renewable resources could come from arrays within the town or even from another state. Regarding a community microgrid architecture, step one is to segment the microgrid. Step two is, on every segment, to put energy storage. The next step is, on every segment, to put some megawatts of wind or solar. The final step is to tier the loads. He stated that the end result, because the town would be making their own power, is that they will mostly stay up and running if/when there is a power outage.

Mr. Pelletier stated they did some modeling with the data that was received from the Town of Avon. This is an investment over a 20 year period. It would cost approximately \$44 million per year for 20 years. This estimate is not taking into account any tax credits, government credits, etc.

Mr. Pelletier explained PACE's online guidebook. He stated that these are good things for this Commission to do in order to help Avon move forward, including: getting a project team together; doing a baseline assessment; putting together an energy plan; and starting initiatives in Town. He encouraged Commission members to send in their events as well as to subscribe to PACE's Calendar of Clean Energy Events.

#### Sustainable CT Update

Ms. Tiezzi stated that this item was on the Town Council's agenda last week. There was a brief introduction as to what Sustainable CT is.

Ms. McGuire, Town Council Chairperson, stated that she would like to see this item back on the Town Council's January agenda. She is hopeful that that a task force or subcommittee can be set up to work towards moving this forward since there are many things that need to happen in order for Avon to reach their goal status within the program; there are many things already in motion to make this happen.

V. NEW BUSINESS – None.

VI. ADJOURN

Mr. Shea made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. Mr. Macel seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted:  
Chairman Bernard Zahren

Attest: Alison Sturgeon, Clerk