

ENERGY COMMISSION

COMSTOCK COMM. CTR.
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Wilton, CT 06897

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Debra Thompson-Van
Chairperson
Peter Wrampe
Vice Chair
Kevin Gardiner
Secretary
AnnaMarie Bilella
Patrice Gillespie
Glenn Hemmerle
Jim Jarvie
Eileen Griffin

WILTON ENERGY COMMISSION
Meeting, Wednesday October 17, 2018
Comstock Community Center
7:00 pm
Minutes

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Attending WEC Members: Debra Thompson-Van, Peter Wrampe, Kevin Gardiner, Patrice Gillespie, Eileen Griffin, Glenn Hemmerle, Jim Jarvie

Absent WEC Members: AnnaMarie Bilella

Other Attendees: Deb McFadden

1. Debra Thompson-Van called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.
2. **Approval of minutes** of September 19, 2018 regular meeting. First, Glenn Hemmerle; Second, Kevin Gardiner; Jim Jarvie abstained.
3. **Review and provide WEC input on draft POCD document** – *Debra Thompson-Van*

In preparation for the POCD meeting November 8, 2018, the WEC went through portions of the POCD to provide initial feedback. In general, WEC members commented that the POCD draft document, while a good start, represented more of a summary of the findings, not specific conclusions or decisions. Further, it was noted that while there were specific examples of Sustainable and Energy elements throughout the plan, such as the possibility of natural gasline extension, energy efficiency in new housing developments and town buildings, the general consensus is that the sustainable and energy topics require further work. The WEC would be willing contribute content or create a POCD subsection dedicated to these topics.

Here is some specific feedback:

- i. More explicitly state the intention to focus on sustainable initiatives in the vision/goals section.

- ii. Provide clarification on whether there are real opportunities (given land constraints without re-zoning) to develop more equitable housing and the WEC's role in ensuring those buildings are Sustainable and Energy efficient.
- iii. Several references to Sustainable CT, the WEC proposes to strike the language around "pursuing points" and make the focus more on what the Sustainable activity/project will be. Our goal is to help make Wilton more Sustainable, and the points/certification are an outcome of the process.
- iv. Provide clarification on the expectations for WEC contribution where specific sustainable/energy activities are specified, such as providing community and business education.
- v. Revisit the parking facility section and focus less on driverless cars and more on Solar powered "iPark" lots and building out EV charging.

Several WEC members requested additional time to review the document and may provide more comments subsequent to the WEC regular meeting. Upon any further readings of the POCD draft document, the WEC members will provide Debra with any additional comments via individual email by November 5, 2018, and Debra will submit WEC's feedback on or around November 6, 2018.

4. Provide an Update and Next Steps on Sustainable CT – *Debra Thompson-Van*

- i. Debra Thompson-Van met with the Conservation Commission (CC) on Oct 3. While no decisions were made about CC's role in Sustainable CT, it was agreed that the mission of the Conservation Commission makes them the most appropriate commission to oversee the Well Stewarded Land and Natural Resources Category. Further it was discussed that the POCD process underway should result in documentation for Land and Natural Resources plans; and/or members of the CC may be willing to provide information on relevant sustainable activities on a go forward basis. Further, she's reached out to Mike Conklin to get his input and advice.
- ii. Debra Thompson-Van met with Parks & Recreation on Oct 10. P&Rs were enthusiastic about participating in the Sustainable CT process and taking ownership of the Green Grounds and Maintenance program category. They should be contacted again to participate in future meetings, define any operational parameters within the town, and actively participate as ambassadors.
- i. The WEC is scheduled with Historical Society November 6.
- ii. Deb McFadden gave the following update:
 - a. She has a message out to Debra Hanson (Chamber of Commerce) to discuss the program and ideas on how to use Sustainable concepts to "support existing business" and "promoting sustainable retail".
 - b. Deb McFadden reached out to STAR, who works with the developmentally disabled, and they are excited to participate. Eileen Griffin is scheduled to speak with them and report back at the November WEC meeting.
 - c. Deb McFadden talked with Lynn Vanderslice about mentioning Sustainable CT initiatives when promoting Wilton at a fair in Grand Central Station.

- iii. Kevin Gardiner reached out to Bob Nerney to identify opportunities to expedite the Solar Permitting Process in Wilton (as Wilton has been ranked 140 out of 169 CT towns). Bob responded that Wilton follows the State's guidelines, but Kevin is also going to seek further suggestions from Emily Bashan at CT Green Bank on October 18.
 - a. Bob Nerney provided Kevin with documentation of Wilton's mandated open space regulations; specifically, the relevant excerpts from Wilton's Zoning and subdivision regulations.
- iv. Patrice will be attending a Sustainable CT Session on the morning of October 22, in Willimantic to discuss best practices from other towns.

5. **Passive House - Patrice Gillespie**

Mike Trolle has a passive house in Southern Danbury, and Patrice is going to schedule a visit for any available Wilton Energy Commissioners on the afternoon of November 17.

6. **Members comment**

Patrice: On December 4, Pat Sesto, of Greenwich's Conservation Commission is planning to co-host an energy efficiency workshop from 4:30-6:00 at the Greenwich Library. As more information becomes available, Jim Jarvie may create marketing materials.

Debra: Requested that everyone on the Energy Commission reads the "Guide to Serving on a Town Board/Commission" that was sent by Lynne Vanderslice via Sarah Gioffre on October 12, 2018.

7. **Public comment**

None.

8. **Adjournment: 8:50 PM**