



Willington Sustainable Energy Committee

Prior to our first meeting, members met informally by phone to decide the best timing for our meetings. We settled on the first Monday of every month at 7 PM, with our actual first meeting on 1/8/2024 due to the holiday on 1/1.

MEETING Minutes

Monday, January 8, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Present: Don Berg, Pam Wheeler, John Tehan, Bill Bunnell

Meeting came to order at 7:10 PM after a slight technical glitch with multiple committees looking to use the same link.

First order of business was to elect a chair and a secretary. Don Berg nominated John Tehan for chair, Bill Bunnell seconded, vote was unanimous. John Tehan nominated Don Berg for secretary, Bill Bunnell seconded, vote was unanimous.

Second order of business was to discuss the purpose of the committee and begin the formation of a mission. John Tehan spoke about the opportunities we have:

- A possible solar farm with enough capacity to offset the town's current electrical usage
- 30% federal tax refund is now 100% refundable for municipalities
- REAP grants (Rural Energy for America Program) are available to reimburse 50% of project costs
- CPACE commercial solar financing through the CT Green Bank
- Air-source heat pumps can be used to replace all existing fossil fuel infrastructure in town, such as the propane fired boiler at the library

Don Berg had questions specifically around low-income qualifications and distressed community standards which we were unable to answer – perhaps Phil Thompson of Down East Green would know better, so it was decided that we should ask Phil to attend our next meeting.

Pam Wheeler would like to see us do a community compost system to lower the amount of trash that has to be hauled away at the transfer station, and she'd like to see clearer recycling instructions for residents. Pam also has quite a few paper records from prior committee actions – John Tehan volunteered to scan items and make them available.



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Next meeting: Monday, Feb 5, 2024

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TOWN CLERK

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