

**CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2022, 6:00 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING**

VIRTUAL MEETING INSTRUCTIONS:

The meeting will be conducted exclusively as virtual meeting. Commission members and members of the public who wish to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting may use the following entry information:

Join from the meeting link

<https://westhartfordcommunitytelevision.my.webex.com/westhartfordcommunitytelevision.my/j.php?MTID=md44eb7662f38d69bb1d2a682ece66eb8>

Join by phone

+1-650-479-3208 United States Toll

+1-646-992-2010 United States Toll (New York City)

Meeting number (access code): 2559 231 9083

Meeting password: pxCkA2xMA66 (79252296 from phones and video systems)

1. Call to Order and Attendance
2. Public Comment Opportunity
3. Old Business
 - Approval of minutes from May, June and July.
 - Review Draft Recommendations to Town Council Regarding Lawn Equipment
4. New Business
 - Follow-up discussion regarding joint meetings of the Conservation and Environment Commission, Clean Energy Commission and Bike/Pedestrian Commission.
 - Discussion of CEC strategic agenda (including present ordinance, any suggested changes to ordinance, and comparison to CEC activities in other towns).
 - Discussion of meeting times, format and attendance.
5. Adjournment

ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING OR PUBLIC HEARING SHOULD CONTACT SUZANNE OSLANDER, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, 860-561-7580 AT LEAST TWO DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING OR PUBLIC HEARING.

Draft Recommendation to Town regarding Landscape Equipment

Members of the West Hartford community, and the Town itself, brought to the attention of the Conservation and Environment Commission (“CEC”) the issue of combustion-powered landscape maintenance equipment and the negative consequences of using such equipment, whether on the basis of noise, health, or greenhouse gas related emissions. In turn the CEC deliberated a variety of approaches.

While the CEC is not recommending an explicit ban at this time, the CEC recommends to the Town of West Hartford the adoption of a resolution identifying the benefits of switching from emitting, combustion-powered landscape maintenance equipment to battery-powered equipment, affirming support and encouragement for a phaseout over time, undertaken with substantive community input and engagement.

This action would be in service to the January 25, 2022 unanimously adopted Resolution Declaring a Climate Crisis. The resolution in part states “that it shall be the policy of the Town to assess the climate change impacts of all future Town actions, to achieve net-zero carbon emissions from Town activities as quickly as practicable, and to encourage residents to do the same.” The resolution further states “that the Town Manager shall coordinate and employ the resources of the Town, through consultation with the Clean Energy Commission, the Conservation and Environment Commission, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission, the Sustainability Advisory Group, and other stakeholders, including youth, to mitigate the effects of anthropogenic climate change and to improve air quality through the implementation of projects practices and policies that reduce, eliminate or counteract the burning of fossil fuels and the emission of greenhouse gases.”

CEC recommends commissioning the creation of a working group composed of volunteer members of the above-mentioned stakeholder bodies. This working group shall further develop strategies regarding combustion-powered lawn equipment use curtailment and fuel switching. The group shall develop strategies for the creation of a public education campaign, and may also make recommendations regarding the establishment of a “swap fund” to incent consumer changeovers to non-emitting landscape equipment. This working group may be established in anticipation of, or as a result of, Town Council consideration of a resolution on this matter.