



## **SUSTAINABLE WEST HARTFORD COMMISSION**

March 31, 2025

7:00 PM, Room 407, Town Hall

### **MEETING AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
3. Administrative – vacancies, etc.
4. Communications & Community Comment (max 3 min each)
5. Ongoing Business
  - Student Rep Reports
  - Town Engagement
    - Clarity on roles of liaison vs PWF&S Committee
    - Monthly check-ins - Dave/Town Manager
    - Mayor's Youth Council
    - Update on [Earth Action Day](#), Earthday.org event
  - Working Groups Reports
    - Waste
    - Nature-Based Solutions
    - Energy / Buildings
    - Land Use / Planning
    - Cool West Hartford
  - Resident Engagement (see New Business)
6. New Business
  - Newsletter (Kelly asked for this to be on agenda)
  - Instagram and list of ideas (Johnathan)
  - Sample action draft (K/Catherine)
  - Regular communication plan – e.g., seasonal or monthly top 5 actions
7. Staff Report
8. Calendar Updates – 4/22/25 Tu - Earth Day, Hall HS Earth Day; 4/26/25 W - Film & Discussion: Cooked: Survival by Zip Code; 6/7 & 6/8/25 Sa & Su - Celebrate! West Hartford
9. Agenda for Next Meeting – 4/28/25
  - BOE/Schools Engagement
10. Adjournment

Anyone requiring auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or modification of policies or procedures to participate in a meeting, service, program or activity of the Town of West Hartford, should contact Suzanne Oslander, ADA Coordinator, at [suzanneo@westhartfordct.gov](mailto:suzanneo@westhartfordct.gov) or (860) 561-7580, as soon as possible, preferably seven days beforehand.

Subject: Waste Working Group Report

Hi Catherine. The Waste Working Group did not formally meet this month, but Ted and Katherine got together on March 20 to prepare for our WHCi segment on waste, which we taped on March 24 with John Phillips. We all thought it went well. We are compiling visuals to overlay the recording, which we hope to provide WHCi by early next month so the educational presentation will be available for viewing (and promotion) mid-month.

The WWG is still looking for additional members to discuss additional WHCi sessions, educational outreach to WH schools, resources to add to the Cool WH website, and sustainability-related ideas to present to town leaders.

- Ted

Sent from my iPhone

## Energy Working Group: Meeting 3/19/2025

- Stephen Sack Yes
- Christine Feely Yes
- David Englert Yes
- Jim Fishman No
- Bernie Pelletier Yes
- Celia Kosinski No
- Jonathan Humphrey No
- Lauren Walker No
- Dan Gleason No
- Catherine Diviney No
- Michael Cocca Yes

## New Members – Dan – Dave

- Dave – Molecular Biologist
  - Discussion of DAS central power in Hartford – does it have fuel tanks in the ground – if so what about bio diesel?

## Open discussion:

- Growth v not growth- Discussion of the upsides and downsides of growth
- Discussion of towns' limited ability to make changes to process and procedures that will increase sustainable building development.
  - Mike Cocca will go ahead and adapt the Stamford checklist – we all recognize that it may not get adopted by the town but thought it'd be a good exercise

## Programs in process

- Business Efficiency Elmwood Business Association
- WHCI video <https://youtu.be/672Q5P3D6ro>

## Cool West Hartford

- <https://www.coolboulder.org>
- Action list and resources
  - Home Efficiency – HES – HES IE – email campaign – examples/
  - Behavior changes –
  - Weatherization
  - Solar
  - Buy “green power”
  - EV – Hybrid Efficient vehicle
  - Public transportation
  - Batteries
  - Lawn care equipment
  - Recognition program – businesses and residents

- Other Business Associations – outreach
- Time in front of W Hartford Chamber -
- Partners:
  - <https://energizect.com/>
  - <https://www.eversource.com/content/residential/save-money-energy/clean-energy-options/solar-energy/solar-incentives>
  - <https://www.energystar.gov/>
  - <https://www.ctgreenbank.com/>
  - <https://www.pacecleanenergy.org/>
  - <https://www.heatsmartct.org/>
  - <https://www.energysage.com/>
  - <https://ctrides.com/>
  - <https://evclubct.com/>
  - [Right now – hard to mention individual businesses](#)
- Building in town:
  - <https://www.ctinsider.com/projects/westhartford/west-hartford-housing-developments/>
  - Vessel meeting 3/20/2025 – 6PM Town Council
  - [https://we-ha.com/west-hartford-town-council-continues-vessel-hearing-again/#google\\_vignette](https://we-ha.com/west-hartford-town-council-continues-vessel-hearing-again/#google_vignette)
- Next meeting: April 16, 2025 5PM

## **Cool West Hartford Working Group**

**3/20/25, 6pm**

**Attendees: Catherine, Katherine, Dave, Johnathan, Pat**

**Newsletter** – Met with Renee McCue, PR Specialist. Commission now setup to use Constant Contact. Kelly not at meeting, but was intending to target Earth Day for 1<sup>st</sup> newsletter,

**Instagram** – Still researching full access to IG account. Johnathan has ideas for content and would like to set up central way to get more ideas from Commission members and working groups. Johnathan schedule meeting with Eversource’s social media department to educate himself and get their advice.

**Website** – next steps– Need to develop content that we will be “driving” people to. Some requests have gone out to other working groups, but we should discuss this at 3/31 meeting. C/Katherine will work on a sample action draft to share 3/31. Kelly and Catherine discussed some Town’s Finals website capabilities (posts news feature linked to Newsletter, searchable) and town process for getting content approved and posed, but Kelly would like to schedule a meeting with Town IT. Discussion included: there should be seasonal actions, events/calendar, permanent vs rotating content, not too much words/reading.

### **Other Discussion (should also include Commission)**

- **How do we “launch” at Celebrate?** Ideas included: ipads to sign people up for newsletter; each working group pick an action to highlight at table/with displays; giveaways (hate waste aspect)
- **Do we track/publicize participation? (game).** This would be great, yes – SHARE what you did. Action counter/ticker, Sust CT menu/checklist approach, #coolwasthartford, prizes/recognition, etc. General feeling was initial focus needs to be on developing content/actions...this piece would come later...no capacity to tackle both and we need a following 1<sup>st</sup>!
- **What do you have to “do” to be part of Cool WH** – want to make sure variety of actions that are accessible to everyone (equity, cost barriers)
- **Do we have any “criteria” for partners?** Besides IT preference for .gov. For example, non-profits, B-corps, hyper-local, etc.
- **Level of effort** - Need to keep our lists and content manageable and organized, not reinvent wheel, clear/concise/easy to navigate for residents.