



SUSTAINABLE WEST HARTFORD COMMISSION

August 25, 2025

7:00 PM, Room 407, Town Hall

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order -7:03
 - **Jonathan Ferrigno – present**
 - **David Sagers – present**
 - **Stephen Sack – absent**
 - **Ted Newton – present**
 - **Kim Hughes – present**
 - **Kelly Kennedy – present**
 - **Pat Wilson – present**
 - **Christy Matthews – absent**
 - **Bernie Pelletier – present**
 - **Ally Schoenhorn – absent**
 - **Andrea Yuliano – absent**
 - **Staff Liaisons – Catherine Diviney and Katherine Bruns**
 - **Members of the community – Madeline Hexter, Paul Robson, Paige Kenausise, Parker Walsh**
2. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: **Approved by all present (7-0)**
3. Administrative: **the commission has added two new members – Ally Schoenhorn and Andress Yuliano and no longer has vacant seats.**
4. Communications & Community Comment (max 3 min each): **Catherine reports receipt of 2 inquiries about the commission and 1 about leaf blowers. We encourage people to join work groups and to attend the electric lawncare event on September 20. Separately the town is writing a letter of support to the CCM advocating for restoration of a grant program to support municipal adoption of electric equipment. Three community members spoke:**
 - **Paul Robson – interested in gardening**
 - **Paige Kenausise and Parker Walsh volunteered to work on commission projects. Parker has IT training.**
5. Ongoing Business
 - Student Rep Reports (on hold for summer): **student reps identified and their attendance will start at next commission meeting**
 - Working Groups Reports
 - **Nature Based Solutions: reported for the working group. Reports on the pollinator garden at Wolcott and setting up educational event to the pollinator habitat. Goal is to help people take action. Event is 10 to noon on Saturday 9-27.**
 - **Waste Working group – enforcement recommendations were accepted. Waste drop-off program is very successful – need more pick-ups since bins get full quickly. Discussion of a brainstorming session to find funding for more actions.**
 - **Energy Working group – continued work on checklist and hopes of meeting with town planner to strategize. 78 leads for HES and HES IE came in as a result of the WEHA ad to promote \$0 copay thru 8-31. SUN-day and National Drive Electric event on Saturday 9-20 from 10AM to 1PM**

- Town Engagement
 - Highlands Region Resolution: – ***pushed to 9/9 Council mtg.***
 - Public Works: ***Waste Monitoring & Enforcement Recommendation accepted. Commission expressed need for Food Waste Data/Impact to be shared consistently.***
 - Leisure: ***Discussion of Planting Policy, Garden Signage, Meadow, Tree Canopy Study. Looking for volunteers for a tree inventory – grant being sought for tree planting (urban forestry grant). Town is checking out Sustainable CT community match fund. Discussion of a Doug Tallamy event and a request for commission support. Kim Hughes asks town to help with planting maintenance.***
 - Planning & Zoning: ***Sustainable Development Checklist, Low Impact Development, TPZ Coordination – State has issued MS4 – on storm water management – must consider natural solutions first – chance for commission involvement.***
- Resident Engagement
 - Cool West Hartford Website & Launch Plans
 - ***Reviewed Waste page***
 - ***Need to review additional pages and share with WH IT department***
 - ***Logo discussion – see if we can find original logo.***
 - Newsletter & Social Media
 - ***Kelly to issue next edition of newsletter focused on events***
 - ***Jonathan to develop 30 second reels on commission topics. Discussion of how to boost Instagram traffic***
- 6. New Business
 - We-Ha Ad – for limited-time \$0 HES – ***promotion yielded 78 leads.***
 - Planning & Priorities for 2026 (see last year’s [Report to Town Council](#)) – ***discussion to start at next month’s meeting.***
- 7. Staff Report
 - ***Design underway for new Elmwood Community Center. Catherine involved to advocate for sustainability features. Trying for LEED Gold certification. Will have geothermal, solar, and possibly battery storage.***
 - ***Continued work on increasing food waste pickups (containers fill up fast).***
- 8. Calendar Updates: 9/20/25 – 10AM - 1 PM West Hartford EV Showcase/Sun Day; 9/21/25 – Third Act CT Sun Day Event, New Britain; 9/27/25 – Wolcott Entrance Garden Tour; 10/5/25 – 1 - 3 PM Wojan Woods Restoration Celebration – 142 Davenport
- 9. Agenda for Next Meeting – 9/29/25
 - ***2026 planned activities and strategies***
- 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 or (860) 561-7580, as soon as possible, preferably seven days beforehand.