Minutes not yet approved.
Approval and any edits to be made in succeeding minutes.

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TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD

Conservation, Energy & Environment Committee (CEEC)

There was a meeting for the above referenced committee held on Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. in a hybrid meeting style. The in-person meeting location was Bloomfield Town Hall – Wintonbury Room/Conference Room 5, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT, and the virtual location was via Zoom.

Committee Members present were: *In-Person*—Paula Jones, Chair; Nancy Bowden; Robert Dickinson; David Hager; *and via Zoom*—Jessica White

Committee Members absent were: Claudia Gwardyak; Charlie Nevers; Zellene Sandler; Brenda Watson

Also present were: *In-person*—Jon Colman, Director of Building & Land Use; Nicholas Gabuzda, Environmental Planner; Brad Huskinson; Lynn Weisel, Recording Secretary; and *via Zoom*—Cori Presutti

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

All were amenable to the agenda as written.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Hager and seconded by Ms. Boden to approve the meeting minutes from 3/12/26.

Mr. Gabuzda noted that CTEC on page three was misspelled, and does not have an "h" in its name.

The committee voted unanimously to approve the 3/12/26 meeting minutes as amended.

Town Planner & Environmental Planner Report/s

Mr. Gabuzda, Environmental Planner, reported that he has been working on the future land use map for the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD). There were some questions as to the POCD status. Mr. Colman reported that Town Plan & Zoning Commission (TPZ) needs to sign off on final edits, followed by the making of the POCD book, followed by another public hearing.

Mr. Colman, Director of Building & Land Use, shared updates from his department. Key items included: the department is working on the requirements from the new housing act; the Town is applying for Town Center grants through Connecticut's federal delegation, and will be applying for Town Center funding in the next round of Community Investment Fund (CIF) grants; 800 Cottage Grove Road redevelopment tax increment review is in process by Goman + York; the proposed Aldi development has not made any formal presentation or proposal; the Arbella senior housing development is underway; construction has begun on a small retail development on Cottage Grove Road; and the Economic Development Commission (EDC) is focused on Granby/Tobey Road area revitalization. It was also noted that the Popeye's under construction is still within their permit timelines.

There was a discussion on the status of Town Center. Mr. Colman reported that an RFP/Q for developers has been released; that the Town recently joined the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA) who will be able to offer technical and financing assistance; and the Town will continue to seek out funding opportunities.

There was a brief discussion on the Town budget. Ms. Bowden noted that she hopes that the Environmental Planner does not get stretched too thin.

Ms. Jones highlighted the informational session held this week for the Greenway section from Tyler Street to Blue Hills Ave. There will likely be an additional informational session to answer questions raised at the first session. Recommendations for the second session included sharing information on the overall Greenway plan in Town; inviting residents currently on a Town Greenway spur to come and share their experiences; and providing information on how abutters can be accommodated (fencing, etc).

There was a discussion about the marketing materials provided by the proposed Aldi development. It was noted that the Town does not regulate developer marketing materials. Ms. Presutti highlighted the language in the marketing materials implying that the development was a done deal, and the potential impact this may have on community feedback.

Old Business

Landscape Zoning Regulations & Ordinances (revising Tree Ordinance) - Update

Mr. Gabuzda reported that a draft zoning regulation was created. Additionally, his department is proposing some ordinances that will allow more effective violation enforcement. CEEC will be able to view the draft before it is presented to TPZ.

Sustainable CT Recertification - Update

Mr. Gabuzda reported that he will be submitting the Sustainable CT application tomorrow, and has received positive feedback from Sustainable CT staff on a submitted draft. The application will submit for bronze status, with good progress made toward achieving silver status. Bloomfield was one of fourteen towns invited by Sustainable CT to the State Capitol to speak with legislators about the work the Town is doing.

Extreme Heat – Update

Ms. Bowden reported that she is in the process of starting an Extreme Heat work group with representatives from a variety of Town departments, with a focus on three areas: 1) guidelines for employees who work outside; 2) safety measures for youth and summer activities; and 3) education about harm reduction efforts that residents can do to stay safe in their homes. The group would also learn more about the Town's current emergency protocols and notification systems.

Agricultural Zone - Discussion

Mr. Gabuzda reported that Town staff will look into creating an agricultural zone in Bloomfield, and will prepare a draft document for review. It was noted that there is not an Agricultural Commission in Bloomfield. The need for balance between agricultural land and development was discussed, as were potential ways to rezone land for agricultural use. Potential restrictions on rezoning land zoned as agriculture was also mentioned.

Simsbury Sustainability Fair (Saturday, May 2, 10 – 2)

Ms. Jones requested support in tabling at the Simsbury Sustainability Fair on May 2 in two-hour shifts from 9AM – 3PM. Ms. Bowden and Ms. White volunteered.

Mr. Gabuzda has created a map for the Fair that includes all residential and commercial properties that have solar in Bloomfield, Simsbury and Avon. He noted that 11% of properties in Bloomfield have solar.

Shred Day & Small Electronics Recycling (Saturday, May 9, 9 – 12:00)

Shred Day has been postponed, with a new date forthcoming.

New Business

Revision of Chicken Regulations – Possible CEEC action to support

Mr. Gabuzda reported confusion from residents around current chicken regulations in Bloomfield. He highlighted that the current regulations effectively require a large parcel to have chickens. His suggestions for revision would be to lessen the buffer needed, and to clarify hens vs. poultry. Questions from the committee included the impact of revisions to current owners of non-chicken poultry (turkeys, ducks, etc), as well as the potential impact on sanitation in neighborhoods, with possible bird flu concerns. Reaching out to current chicken owners in Bloomfield for feedback was suggested.

Other

Mr. Hager reported that DEEP released a new grant round of funding for electric vehicles, including school buses, with up to 65% of the cost of the vehicle covered. Applications are due in June.

Announcements/Updates/Upcoming Events from the Committee

Bloomfield Spring Cleanup (April 18) – Cancelled

Ms. Jones reported that the townwide spring cleanup has been cancelled due to resource constraints.

Tree City USA & Trees for Bloomfield: Arbor Day Event (April 24, 11 – 12:30)

Ms. Jones reported on the upcoming Arbor Day Event on April 24 at Town Hall. All are invited, and a tree will be dedicated in honor of the late David Mann. A representative from DEEP Forestry will be attending, as Bloomfield has been recertified as a Tree City USA.

"The Story of Plastic" Screening & Panel Discussion (with BPL, September 15, 6 – 8 pm)

Mr. Huskinson shared information about the danger of plastics, and invited the committee to the screening of the film, "The Story of Plastic," at Prosser Library on September 15. The film will be followed by a panel discussion, and also has a connected book available for checkout at the library.

Other

There were no other items at this time.

Public Comment

Ms. Presutti invited the committee to the upcoming Pollinator Pathways Native Plants program at Prosser Library on 4/15 at 5:30PM. She noted that Connecticut has just designated April as Connecticut Native Plant Month. Ms. Jones requested that the Pollinator Pathways program and Town Arbor Day event be included in an upcoming Town eNewsletter.

Mr. Dickinson provided some suggestions for the proposed solar regulations to encourage solar in industrial areas in Bloomfield.

Adjournment

It was moved by Ms. Bowden, seconded by Mr. Dickinson, and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

A full meeting recording is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7UkO5WbfVD8