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 special meeting for the above referenced committee held on Tuesday, June 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; Claudia Gwardyak; David Hager; *and via Zoom*—Jessica White (joined at 4:37 p.m.)

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

Also present were: *In-person*—Jon Colman, Director of Building & Land Use; Nicholas Gabuzda, Environmental Planner; Kevin Gough; BJ Hardersen; Sharon Mann; Councilor Joseph Merritt; Juliana Peck; Lynn Weisel, Recording Secretary

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 Ms. Bowden, seconded by Ms. Gwardyak, and voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes as written from 5/14/26.

Town Planner & Environmental Planner Report/s

Town Planner Report

Mr. Colman, Director of Building & Land Use, provided the following updates:

- An application for Community Investment Funding (CIF) has been submitted to support the Town Center. An answer is expected by September.
- The Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) book is being finalized for review.
- The Town budget is complete.

There was a brief discussion on the CIF application and the differences from the previously submitted application.

Environmental Planner Report

Mr. Gabuzda, Environmental Planner, provided the following updates:

- The urban forestry right-of-way tree inventory will begin soon.
- The Bloomfield Farmer's Market is being marketed through Town channels, and is currently located at Filley Park.

- The Rockwell Park proposal includes artificial turf. If artificial turf is chosen for use, staff will recommend including a maintenance and decommissioning plan, along with information about the health and environmental impacts of artificial turf.

There was a robust conversation about artificial turf being included in the Rockwell Park proposal. Most members thought the fields were in a future phase of the park's development, and were under the impression that artificial turf had not been officially chosen for use. It was thought that the Rockwell Park Committee had not met, nor made a decision of the material for the field. It was noted that both CEEC and the Recreation Committee voted unanimously in favor of an ordinance that would ban all future use of artificial turf in Town. Councilor Merritt suggested that the item be included on a future Town Council agenda.

Old Business

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

Mr. Gabuzda briefly reviewed the landscape zoning regulations and the tree ordinance. Feedback and questions from the committee included: zoning enforcement being dependent on the public noticing tree removal and filing a complaint; how to include, inventory, and protect champion trees; education on Town regulations to both tree removal companies and the general public; and public education on the impact of tree removal for solar installation.

The difficulty of enforcement on private property was discussed. The right-of-way tree inventory was highlighted as a good first step in protecting trees on public property. Methods for creating an inventory for trees on private land was discussed.

It was noted that any additional feedback on the proposed regulations should be sent to Mr. Gabuzda.

Sustainable CT – Update

Mr. Gabuzda reported that Bloomfield obtained bronze certification through Sustainable CT, and would like to aim for silver certification in spring 2027.

Extreme Heat – Update

There was no update at this time.

Agricultural Zone - Update

Mr. Gabuzda reviewed proposed agricultural resources as part of exploring the potential for an agricultural zone in Town. The need for an inventory of farmers and farmland in Town and dialogue with applicable parties was discussed. A variety of suggestions for research and outreach were made, including through the Farmer's Market, High School agricultural program, local farms & community gardens, people with chicken or beekeeping licenses, and those claiming farming tax deductions. Any additional feedback should be sent to Mr. Gabuzda.

Solar Regulations - Update

Mr. Gabuzda reported that the updated solar regulations were unanimously approved by TPZ, and will go into effect on 6/10/26.

Revision of Chicken Regulations – Update

There was no update at this time.

"Plastic Free July" daily activity calendar - potential action (link on CEEC webpage)

Ms. Jones reminded the committee of the upcoming "Plastic Free July," with a daily event calendar to be posted on the Town website. Additionally, there will be a movie screening, "The Story of Plastic," on September 15 at Bloomfield Public Library. Ms. Gwardyak offered to help with the project, spearheaded by Brad Huskinson.

New Business

Pesticide Use in Town

Mr. Gabuzda reported that he could not find any specific Town regulations for herbicides and pesticides, which means the Town defaults to the State standards. He met with Dan Carter, DPW Director, who reported that the Town spot sprays herbicides, and sprays select areas, such as fence lines, once a year.

Ms. Peck highlighted efforts to stop the use of pesticides at Seabury.

Concerns raised included the need for training/education for vendors or staff charged with spraying; increasingly complex landscaping that requires specific maintenance; the need for oversight and a maintenance plan; and the public not knowing what products are being used.

It was requested that mosquito sprays be included in the pesticide conversation.

It was determined that concerns would be collected from interested groups.

Other

There were no other items at this time.

Announcements/Updates/Upcoming Events from the Committee

Shred Day & Small Electronics Recycling – Update (Amount recycled)

Ms. Jones reported on a successful Shred Day, noting that a new record of electronics was collected. The shred truck was filled, and she offered the reminder that magazines and junk mail do not need to be shredded.

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

Ms. Jones reminded the committee about this upcoming event.

Trees for Bloomfield/Tree City USA – Photo Contest

Ms. Jones noted that the Trees for Bloomfield photo contest has started, and will run through October 22.

Other

Ms. Gwardyak inquired about a budget for posters for expanding the committee's public relations work. There was a brief discussion about budget. Ms. Bowden requested to see a copy of the committee's budget, and Ms. Jones noted that she would include this on the next meeting's agenda.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

It was moved by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Ms. Gwardyak, and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:53 p.m.

The complete meeting recording is available at https://www.youtube.com/live/BubtrTl7oCk