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

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
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TOWN OF BLOOMFIELD

Conservation, Energy & Environment Committee (CEEC)

There was a meeting for the above referenced committee held on Thursday, September 10, 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; Robert Dickinson; David Hager; *and via Zoom*—Zellene Sandler

Committee Members absent were: Nancy Bowden; Claudia Gwardyak; Charlie Nevers; Brenda Watson; Jessica White

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*—Susan Linker, CT Votes for Animals; Cori Presutti

The meeting was called to order at 4:37 p.m.

There was not a quorum so no official business took place.

Approval of Agenda

This item was not discussed as there was not a quorum.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

This item was tabled since there was not a quorum.

Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs) – Susan Linker, CT Votes for Animals

Ms. Linker provided information on second generation rodenticides, including its impact on animals and humans, past legislative efforts to eliminate its use, and potential alternatives. She asked for CEEC's support in working on a Town ordinance banning SGARs. CEEC agreed to stay in touch with Ms. Linker and will think about ways to educate the public.

Town Planner & Environmental Planner Report/s

Town Planner Report

Highlights from Mr. Colman's report included:

- Work at Popeye's has continued
- The development at First Cathedral has begun the land review process
- A number of upcoming developments are going through the tax agreement review process
- RFPs for developers of the Town Center are due 9/15. They anticipate hearing back about CIF funding in the next week.

- TPZ has approved the future land use map for the POCD, and TPZ will review the updated POCD narrative at a special meeting on 9/17.

Environmental Planner Report

Highlights from Mr. Gabuzda's report included:

- Several grants have been submitted in support of local parks, including for Wilcox Park and LaSalette Park.

There was additional discussion about the POCD. It was noted that the earliest that the POCD would be available to the public was 9/17.

Old Business

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

CEEC recommended moving forward with the revised Landscape Zoning Regulations and Ordinances via a consensus of members in attendance. Building & Land Use staff will ensure that the approval process moves forward with TPZ and Town Council.

Some details of the regulations and ordinances were discussed, including comments on native vs. non-native plants, and Tree Ordinance enforcement.

Extreme Heat – Update

This item was deferred to the October meeting.

Artificial Turf – Update

Mr. Colman reported that TPZ approved the Rockwell Park site plan, but postponed the decision on the type of turf with the understanding that there will likely be a townwide turf policy in the future. The Town Manager requested a full analysis with the pros/cons of artificial and natural turf to present to the Town Council. There is the potential for a townwide turf policy in November/December, but this will be up to the Town Council.

There was a discussion about safety and cost. Ms. Jones highlighted that a past analysis showed that current fields were sufficient without the additional turf fields. She also noted that the cost of artificial turf was shown to be $2.1 million more than natural turf.

It was not known if there would be a public hearing on a townwide turf policy, but it was noted that Town Council public comment can be utilized for feedback.

Pesticide Use in Town

It was noted that this item remained on the agenda as a placeholder, so that it would not get lost.

Waste Reduction Initiatives (Potential Resolutions and/or Ordinances) - Plastics

Mr. Gabuzda reported on his research into local skip-the-stuff laws. He noted that a Town ordinance to reduce wasteful plastic use would be possible, but highlighted that enforcement could be difficult, and a point person would be needed.

There was additional discussion around methods of enforcement. Alternative ideas included: asking the Town Council to vote on a skip-the-stuff resolution, and ask businesses to opt-in; allowing, encouraging, or requiring businesses to charge for extra items; and focusing on ways to reduce plastic use at Town schools and facilities.

Focusing on the finances was suggested, including the reduction in business costs for not providing plastic items, or for providing non-plastic items.

This item will be discussed further at next month's meeting.

New Business

Community Interests – SGARs; Bird Feeders

There was no additional discussion on SGARs as this had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

Ms. Jones reported on a community concern about a resident who feeds the birds year-round, which has attracted bear activity. Simsbury has an intentional feeding of wildlife ordinance, enforced by animal control and the police department. Ms. Jones will follow-up to see if the Simsbury ordinance has been effective. The need for increased education was also discussed. Incorporating bear data from DEEP was suggested in determining steps for moving forward.

Tabling at "The Story of Plastic" Screening on 9/15

"The Story of Plastic" screening will be on Tuesday, followed by a discussion. There will tables with additional information on plastics and Trees for Bloomfield at the event.

Other

Mr. Huskinson asked for an update on the school cafeteria conversion. Mr. Gabuzda has a meeting with Bloomfield Public School to discuss and will report back.

Announcements/Updates/Upcoming Events from the Committee

Addition of Bloomfield by USFWS to Highlands Conservation Act Region

Bloomfield was added to the Highlands Conservation Act Region after CEEC recommended that Town Council pass a resolution asking to be added. The designation brings additional opportunities for federal funding.

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

There was no additional discussion on this item.

Trees for Bloomfield/Tree City USA – Photo Contest

Ms. Jones asked the committee to share information for the Trees for Bloomfield photo contest. There have not been as many applicants to-date as there have been in the past.

Other

There were no other items.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

The complete meeting recording is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oh7UiVvN82Y