I. **Call to Order** at 7:03 pm by Acting Chair Charlie Horn

II. **Members Present:** Charlie Horn, Paula Jones, David Hager, Vikki Reski, and Seth Pitts

**Members Absent:** Zellene Sandler, Val Rossetti

**Guests:** Robert Smith, Carmela Garofalo, Claudia Gwardyak

III. **Approval of Agenda:** Items added to New Business: Modernizing the Bottle Bill and reappointment of CEEC members; item added to Public Comment: Communications. **Agenda approved with these additions.**

IV. **Approval of December 12, 2019 Minutes:** Minutes approved with correction of spelling of John Lawlor’s name.

V. **Old Business**

1. **Discussion of and Commitment to Projects from Facilitated Discussion of CEEC Priorities:** Committee members and guests indicated projects they were willing to participate in (see list below.) CEEC charges were reviewed. Vikki will reach out to Jose and report on the status of the Environmental Planner. This position is important to CEEC’s work.

2. **No information on latest C-Tec Campaign**

3. **E-mails were not returned from Earthlight, Homestead and C-Tec energy campaigns re the contribution to the Fuel Bank. Charlie will reach out to these vendors by phone.**

VI. **New Business**

1. **Shred Day/Electronics Recycling** discussion with Robert Smith. The Town is willing to help CEEC with the conduct of Shred Day. He proposed recruiting a “Volunteer Corps” to help deal with issues on traffic control and safety. He suggested better volunteer training and wearing of identifying clothing such as yellow vests to I.D. volunteers, improving the separation of auto and pedestrian traffic, additional trucks for collection, signage in backlog area indicating that it is worth the wait because of the amount recycled in past years. He suggested more of an online presence and the use of a QR code for more information. He suggested having more staging bins and bins that could be used for regular recycling, i.e., non-confidential documents that don’t need shredding. Coffee and donuts were appreciated by volunteers. Next Shred Day will be October 3rd.

   The Town Manager was asked about his environmental priorities and a wide-ranging discussion followed, which included MIRA’s proposal re the refurbishment of the trash to energy plant in Hartford to extend its life cycle for approximately 30 years. He expects tipping fees to rise from $80 to $90 ton.

   He is also concerned about traffic transformation and town round-abouts, making best use of Filley House in LaSalette Park, encouraging young people to get outdoors and learn to appreciate the environment.

2. **Report on meeting with West Hartford Energy Specialist:** Charlie and Val met with Catherine Diviney, West Hartford’s energy specialist and discussed their solar installations, energy tracking and food waste programs.

   West Hartford considers solar on its municipal buildings as each new roof comes up; they have an ordered list of which buildings are next. For municipal buildings, almost all of the financing is through
PPA’s (power purchase agreements). They do not use consultants but suggested Bloomfield look at the CT Green Bank’s Solar Municipal Assistance program.  https://ctgreenbank.com/solarmap/ The Solar MAP team will lead the municipality through the entire process from site selection to selection of contractors, and help negotiate to get the best terms. Coventry recently engaged this program. The West Hartford RFP was shared with Val and Charlie who have shared this information with John Lawlor and will follow up with him later in January. Charlie will attend the CT Energy Network’s Feb 1 Net Zero Energy Schools Workshop at the Rockfall/deKoven House, 27 Washington St. in Middletown, 10-2:30, https://www.eventbrite.com/e/89357995169: co-hosted by CT Clean Water Fund and PACE. Topics include financing, energy efficient retrofits, net zero energy new construction and electric school buses. She will let John Lawlor and Wayne Casper know about the workshop.

With regard to energy tracking, Catherine uses EPA portfolio manager only to satisfy the Sustainability CT requirements. Otherwise she uses Capturis and is testing Dude Solutions but has not found a “best option”.

With regard to food waste composting, W. Hartford is trying a program of food waste composting in the elementary schools and contracts with Paine’s to take the food waste to Quantum Biofuel.

3. **Reappointment of CEEC members:** Dwight Bolton will not be able to continue on CEEC due to a conflict with a standing business meeting. CEEC will need to recruit 2 members who are not members of the Democratic Party to fill current vacancies. Charlie will contact the RTC Chair for suggestions. Deadline for submitting candidates is January 14, 2020.

4. **Modernizing the State Bottle bill:** Paula reported that she sat in on a call about bottle bill legislation for the upcoming session. Concerned Citizens for the Environment (CCE) is leading the charge overall; there is a “citizen grass roots” subcommittee and the idea is to engage various organizations (e.g. garden clubs, land trusts, environmental groups, energy task forces) to help push legislation. CEEC members might want to participate even if CEEC doesn’t take a position. Contact Paula if interested.

VII. **Public Comments**

Claudia Gwardyak is forming an Environmental Communications Committee, which is intended to improve the public’s understanding of the environmental and energy work CEEC does. Claudia has spoken with a designer from NYC. She mentioned developing a stand-alone piece that could be used in multiple ways, e.g., for a newsletter, newspaper or handout or state tourism website for Bloomfield. Vikki will e-mail Claudia a couple of websites for her to look at. Claudia can be reached at ClaudiaGwardyak@gmail.com.

**CEEC Priority Projects and Volunteers**

- Recycling/Composting-Val and Carmela
- Solar Panel on town building- David, Val and Charlie
- Electric Vehicles- David and Val
- Statewide Energy Task Force participation - Charlie
- Energy Tracking- New energy plan - Environmental Planner???
- Energy Bench Marking Town Buildings - Environmental Planner???
- Complete Streets- Sustainable CT- Vikki, Jose and Environmental Planner
- Health Assessment of Vulnerable population due to Climate Change- Environmental Planner???
- Tree Planting and Development Policies- Vikki and Paula
- Pollinator Pathways: Paula and Zellene
- Farmland & Food systems- Seth
IX. Next meeting date: February 13, 2020. Meetings are the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7 pm in Conference Room #2 at Town Hall.

X. Adjourned at: 9:15 pm

Respectfully submitted by Vikki Reski