I. The meeting was called to order at 4:31 pm. Those in Attendance:

CEEC Members: Paula Jones, David Hager, Zellene Sandler

Town Staff: Town Manager Stanley Hawthorne, Town Planner Jose Giner, Environmental Planner Stephanie Bahramian

Guests: Brenda Watson (Executive Director, Operation Fuel), Emily Basham (CT Green Bank), Clare Doyle Dowd (Bloc Power), Bob Dickenson (Resident), Donald Weigt (Resident), Tonya Anderson (Resident), Carmela Garofalo (Resident), Nancy Bowden (Resident)

II. The agenda was approved as presented.

III. The November 17, 2021 Minutes were approved as presented.

IV. Presentation: Ithaca New York Green New Deal Project (Brenda Watson, Emily Basham, Clare Dowd)

Brenda announced that Operation Fuel had launched (in December) a “Better Homes and Buildings Program.” Financing is available (up to $25,000/home) to remediate health and safety barriers (e.g. Asbestos, Mold) that prevent people from being able to weatherize their homes. The goal of this program is to remediate these barriers so that homes can be weatherized, and to install heat pumps if that’s feasible. Operation Fuel, CT Green Bank, and BlocPower would like to implement this program in some CT towns (or specific neighborhoods within communities) using an approach similar to Ithaca NY’s.

Clare then presented a brief Powerpoint highlighting Bloc Power’s role in Ithaca’s Green New Deal Project. Ithaca’s Green New Deal Project is a commitment to achieve community-wide carbon neutrality by 2030. BlocPower was selected (through an RFP process) to implement Ithaca’s Building Efficiency Electrification Program as part of the Green New Deal Project. They will be the program manager to decarbonize 6,000 buildings in Ithaca. Emily talked about CT Green Bank’s role providing capital and partnering with towns.

CEEC will consider exploring this opportunity for Bloomfield as part of its priority-setting process this month (and next month).

Operation Fuel would be happy to make this presentation to Town Council if that is a logical next step.

V. Old Business:

(a) Climate Emergency Plan RFQ Update – The RFQ will be sent out to the CT Energy Network for bids; Stephanie will sent it to one company that had contacted her last summer.

(b) CEEC Priority Setting – See the last page of the minutes for proposed areas of focus.

VI. New Business

(a) CEEC Meeting Structure – There was consensus that using a CEEC subcommittee structure would be a more effective way to get committee work
done. Using a subcommittee approach necessitates finding enough people to participate and to do the work. We agreed to continue the discussion at our February meeting.

VII. Environmental Planner Report – Stephanie is asking for volunteers to staff booths at the Market she is putting together. She is asking for volunteers to staff a CEEC booth at the Market; this is a good opportunity to engage with Bloomfield residents, let them know what CEEC does, and get input on what they’d like to see from the Committee.

VIII. Announcements/Updates/Upcoming Events from the Committee – Zellene provided a brief report about the Christmas Bird Count. 87 species were tallied during the 2021 count. Northern birds are not migrating down to Connecticut this year. In all likelihood this is due to warmer weather and lack of snow cover up north.

IX. There were no Public comments in addition to those during the meeting.

X. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Next meeting date: **February 10**

Additional Meeting Dates for 2022 – 2nd Thursday of each month: March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10, December 8
CEEC Priority Setting – 2022/2023

**General Themes:**

- Getting the Climate Energy Plan in place (with concrete guidelines) will be helpful for guiding CEEC on which projects to work on.
- Look at all issues through the triple lens of Climate Emergency, Equity/Environmental Justice, and Public Health.
- Create actionable items for CEEC to work on.
- Organize ourselves into CEEC working groups (of appointed members & resident volunteers) to work on the actionable items (e.g TREES FOR BLOOMFIELD model). Report out & make recommendations at monthly meetings, as well as propose presentations related to projects we want to take action on.
- CEEC representation on POCD.
- Utilize Bloomfield Market Booths for outreach & education.

**“Energy” Themes:**

- Climate Emergency Plan (and CE Action subgroup) can serve as a foundation for Committee work. Look at energy plans from other towns (work with PACE).
- Energy Efficiency Programs – weatherization, insulation – Pursue Op Fuel opportunity presented at January meeting?
- Fuel (and Water) Assistance Programs (partner with Op Fuel to extend reach within town)
- Renewable energy - Community Solar
- Infrastructure for EVs – more charging stations
- Electric School Buses

Look at through lens of multi-units (including condo association) – how to go “broader” than weather stripping. e.g, Solar – how to tackle the problem of divided responsibility with inside vs. outside the exterior walls, roof-mounted versus ground-mounted arrays

**“Waste Management” themes:**

- Composting (note: Seabury just acquired a large composting machine that takes all kitchen and apartment food waste)
- Proper recycling
- Drastically reducing Plastics
- Yard waste/brush through anaerobic digester

**“Conservation/Environment” Themes**

- Continue planting trees (Support TREES FOR BLOOMFIELD Initiative)
- Continue to monitor bird/butterfly declines but identify actionable items to address
- Recommend more environment-friendly practices for DPW (e.g. landscaping, mowing practices, planting native species).
- Change Landscape Plan design requirements for new development; Environmental Planner should be involved.