

City of New Haven

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Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 7, 2024

6:00 PM

Meeting can be viewed on Board of Alders YouTube.

Aldermanic Chamber

City Services and Environmental Policy

(Board of Alders Notice New Haven) The City Services and Environmental Policy Committee of the Board of Alders will meet “in-person” on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Alders Chamber located at 165 Church Street, 2nd Floor, New Haven, Connecticut, to hear and act on the following items:

1) [LM-2024-0032](#)

ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS
CONCERNING THE COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR
OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS LAWN
PESTICIDES AND ARTIFICIAL TURF.

and hold the following the following workshop:

-- WORKSHOP OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS WITH NEW HAVEN'S ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL REGARDING THE CURRENT WORK OF THIS COUNCIL.

2) [LM-2024-0047](#) FROM THE NEW HAVEN CLIMATE MOVEMENTS ELECTRIC FUTURE COMMITTEE SUBMITTING A REQUEST TO THE BOARD OF ALDERS TO HOLD A HEARING TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON PROGRESS TOWARD THE PROMISES SET OUT IN THE NEW HAVEN COMMUNITY ELECTRIFICATION RESOLUTION OF 2021 AND CREATE THE NEXT STEPS FOR ACTION.

Per Order: Hon. Anna M. Festa, Chair

Attest: Hon. Michael Smart, City/Town Clerk

These items are on file and available in the Office of the City Clerk located at 200 Orange Street, Room 202, New Haven, Connecticut 06510.

For accessibility related accommodations, please call (203) 946 7651 (V) or (203) 946 8582 (TTY/TDD).

Public comment/testimony may also be submitted via email to publictestimony@newhavenct.gov before 2:00 pm on the day of the meeting.

This meeting may be viewed on the New Haven Board of Alders YouTube page.

Minutes

Alder Anna M. Festa, Chair, called the public hearing to order at 6:02 p.m. Present were Alders Anna M. Festa, Chair, Kampton Singh, Vice-chair, Troy Streater, Kiana Flores, and Caroline Tanbee Smith.

1. ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS CONCERNING THE COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS LAWN PESTICIDES AND ARTIFICIAL TURF.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Presenters: Laura Cahn, Chair of Environmental Advisory Council

Laura Cahn, Chair of Environmental Advisory Council, 54 Cleveland Road, discussed how we have a new EAP justice, Kiana White, assigned to New Haven. Reviewed how laws applicable to pesticides differ greatly between Europe and the United States with the US waiting until proof they are harmful.

Reviewed pesticides usage including around New Haven, children, hospitals, and seniors and harmful side effects of pesticides use. Discussed alternatives such as the use of goats. Spoke about the unlicensed and improper use of pesticides, including by companies, contractors, neighbors, and Yale. Discussed how difficult it is to document and report contractors to CTDEEP. Reviewed how DEEP keeps an abutment notice list that contractors are supposed to adhere to by giving people 24-hour notice of when they are going to be spreading pesticides on adjoining properties, which is not adhered to by unlicensed contractors.

Discussed the law being considered by the House including one submitted by Senator Booker. In 2023, the Connecticut Assembly considered a ban on a specific pesticide, which the committee is hearing again tomorrow.

Supports a ban on leaf blowing for a minimum of 24 hours after the application of pesticides.

Discussed how artificial turf is plastic and requires the removal of 18" of topsoil for installation. Reviewed how artificial turf is covered with PFAS, which are the forever toxic chemicals that are leaching into our water supply and bodies.

In response to Alder Festa, Ms. Cahn reviewed how she supports requiring all landscapers that work in New Haven to be on a list to help monitor their activity regardless of whether they use pesticides or not. Maintenance of artificial turf requires the application of pesticides, detergent, and water. The bioaccumulates are found up through the food chain. Discussed how the artificial turf is so much hotter that it requires the fields to be watered before games are played. Snow and ice must be removed to stop the artificial turf from breaking. Also, on hot days, it must be watered to protect it.

Recommends that the City of New Haven should have a Wetlands/Inlands committee and the City Plan Commission should not hear items affecting the wetlands/inlands.

In response to Alder Tanbee Smith, Ms. Cahn discussed how change is happening, but it is slow and not keeping up. Reviewed the example of how Roundup causes cancer and the company that produces it has multiple lawsuits. Ms. Cahn discussed how some NFL teams have transferred back to grass fields.

In response to Alder Flores, Ms. Cahn reviewed how the lack of education regarding pesticides is intentional.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Kampton Singh moved to read and file item # 1, seconded by Alder Caroline Tanbee Smith. All the Alders spoke in favor of reading and filing this item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the motion to read and file this item passed.

- WORKSHOP OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS WITH NEW HAVEN'S ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL REGARDING THE CURRENT WORK OF THIS COUNCIL.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Presenters: Laura Cahn, Chair of Environmental Advisory Council

Laura Cahn, Chair of Environmental Advisory Council, 54 Cleveland Road, reviewed the items the EAC has prioritized. Discussed how we continue to litter including issues with nip bottles still being discarded in the street, and how people even litter inside stores. Reviewed how her current motto is: The Planet Is Gasping for Air, and We Are Holding a Plastic Bag Around It.

Recommends having a complaint system like SeeClickFix to report environmental concerns such as idling, litter, odors, etc. Recycling center has wet waste. A group wants bird safe building ordinances. A ban on nip bottles, as the state refuses to pass a statewide ban. Recommends having a setback to have green space for developments. Monitoring toxic waste facility being built. Garbage from food trucks blowing into Long Island Sound. Access to the river from the Lowe's parking lot. Artificial turf installation at Hooker. Update to the tree ordinance. Testing for PFAS. Noise cameras. Water sustainability.

In response to Alder Tanbee Smith, Ms. Cahn reviewed how in Hartford they require trees to be assessed, even on private property, before they can cut them down.

COMMITTEE ACTION

No committee action.

2. ORDER OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING TO HEAR AN UPDATE FROM THE NEW HAVEN CLIMATE MOVEMENTS ELECTRIC FUTURE COMMITTEE ON PROGRESS TOWARD THE PROMISES SET OUT IN THE NEW HAVEN COMMUNITY ELECTRIFICATION RESOLUTION OF 2021 AND CREATE THE NEXT STEPS FOR ACTION.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Presenters: Krishna Davis, Member of the New Haven Climate Movement Electric Committee; Steven Winter, Director of the Office of Climate and Sustainability; and Max Teirstein, Sustainability Policy Analyst and Engagement Coordinator

Krishna Davis, 189 Elm Street, member of the New Haven Climate Movement Electric Committee, reviewed how the resolution promises of the New Haven Electrification Resolution that was passed in April 2021. Discussed the information in the Electrifying New Haven Progress Report. A copy of the progress report is on file in the Office of Legislative Services.

Steven Winter, Director of the Office of Climate and Sustainability, 459 Dixwell Avenue, and Max Teirstein, 415 Orange Street, Sustainability Policy Analyst and Engagement Coordinator reviewed how the city has moved towards meeting the electrification goals by bringing in electric vehicles and chargers. Discussed how the DOT building purchased by the city, which will house the health department is mostly heated by heat pumps. Reviewed additional places within the city that involve city buildings that use heat pumps. Discussed the development incentives to build more sustainable, denser buildings, especially on Long Wharf. Spoke about the green construction requirements that Stamford and Norwalk require for larger buildings. A copy of the written testimony is on file in the Office of Legislative Services.

In response to Alder Festa, Director Winter discussed how all the school buildings use gas for heating, but 21 school buildings have solar panels to help offset the cost of electricity for lights and air conditioning. Reviewed how forms were submitted to install solar panels at Q-house and the landfill. Hill Central and Beecher have been submitted for installation of solar panels to be installed above the parking lots. Discussed how they would like to install these at more schools, but currently the state will not approve additional solar panels for schools that already have solar. Spoke about the federal benefits available for solar and geothermal installations. Discussed incentives for Connecticut residents to purchase an electric vehicle, which includes \$7,500 (federal) and \$4,250 (state), which can be applied by dealers when the vehicle is purchased. Spoke about how he hopes those incentives in the future will be applied to the vehicles the city purchases.

Discussed how some other towns have greater resources to purchase electric vehicles, such as Westport, which replaced some of its police fleet with Teslas years ago and have been able to publish studies regarding how much money they have saved over gas vehicles.

In response to Alder Singh, Director Winter reviewed how incentives are available for residents of 30% tax credit for home improvements that qualify such as geothermal and solar panels.

In response to Alder Tanbee Smith, Director Winter reviewed the progress the city has made to moving city buildings to all electrification. Reviewed their work they are completing in the Office of Climate and Sustainability. Spoke about the importance of having a grant writer. Discussed the difficulties with getting the buy in of all the stakeholders in time to submit the grant applications. Reviewed how the city requirements regarding the procurement process and working with nonprofits is more cumbersome than the EPA requirements. Spoke about how they seeing New Haven based businesses on the heat pump list. Discussed the stricter licensing threshold for heat pump systems in Connecticut vs New York.

Krishna Davis spoke about how the current proposed budget does not include any additional funding for climate sustainability positions.

Director Winter reviewed how they have a recycling educator starting next week, which is being hired with nip funds. Discussed ways to use current positions to support climate sustainability programs, such as housing inspectors.

Derek Faulkner, 166 Huntington Street, works at Southern Connecticut University, and spoke about the changes towards electrification he has seen at Southern and across the city. Spoke in support of the city supporting changes towards electrification, and the importance of the city to support these items.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Alder Kampton Singh moved to read and file item # 2, seconded by Alder Caroline Tanbee Smith. All the Alders spoke in favor of reading and filing this item. The motion was unanimously approved, and the motion to read and file this item passed.

Alder Kampton Singh moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Alder Caroline Tanbee Smith. The motion was unanimously approved at 8:27 p.m.

Alder Kampton Singh moved to adjourn, seconded by Alder Caroline Tanbee Smith. The motion was unanimously approved.

Adjourned: 8:36 p.m.

A recording of this meeting can be viewed on the Board of Alders' YouTube channel here: <https://youtube.com/@boardofalders8363>.

Respectfully submitted,
Misty Maza, J.D., Legislative Aide II