



January 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, January 15, 2019
Time: 6:00pm – 7:45pm
Location: Stony Creek Brewery, Branford

Present:

Andrew Baumer	
Alicia Dolce	Board member
Bill Freeman	
Sara Holmes	Secretary
Nick Jones	Board member
George Penniman	Treasurer
Cat Young	CTPH member
Leonard Wyeth	President
Katie Zoppo	Board member

Distribution: All present, post on website

“We,” “our,” “us,” and “CTPH” refers to the Connecticut Passive House group.

HOME ENERGY SCORES AND MLS

1. Leonard discussed a goal of this year is to do what we can to push houses to have energy scores. CT’s Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is working to incorporate US Department of Energy’s Home Energy Score system into MLS listings.
2. CTPH needs to figure out what’s being done, who’s doing it, and how we can help.
3. Andrew can shed light from the real estate side. There are 15 or so real estate boards in the state.
4. Nick will connect with Diane Duva and Julia Dumaine at CT DEEP to learn about what the state is working on.
5. Nick will connect with Chris Gordon of Efficiency VT about their Home Energy Labeling and real estate listing collaboration.
6. Another score system to learn about is Home Energy Labeling Information eXchange (HELIX), which combines different ratings into one score.

SPONSORSHIP & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

7. We currently have 4 Annual Sponsors – Wasco, CT Green Bank, Huber, 475 High Performance Building Supply – totaling \$5,500.
8. Nick will submit an Annual Sponsorship request to Eversource.



9. Sara reported that as of January 1, 2019 we had 55 individual members, and 4 company members. 22 members did not renew. Sara sent reminders to those people, 5 of whom already rejoined.
10. Two renewal reminders are automatically sent (not by mailchimp!): 7 days prior to expiration and when it expires. Katie mentioned her reminder went into her junk mail folder. *Jon reconfigured the emails to come from info@ctpassivehouse.org which will hopefully solve this problem. He also added another notice for 30 days in advance.*
11. Mailchimp has been problematic for some subscribers. There are other options like Constant Contact, but would take time to transfer. We would lose integrations with Eventbrite and SurveyMonkey. CTGBC uses StarChapter. No action to be taken at this time.

MARKETING & PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

12. Cat reported on her research newsletter engagement. On a recent campaign, we averaged about 30% open rate and 3% click rate. Architect industry averages 23% open rate and 2.5% click rate.
13. Our Instagram “ctpassivehouse” has 100 followers.
14. If people wish to be featured on our Instagram, they can email pictures and descriptions to media@ctpassivehouse.org.

EDUCATION

15. Katie followed up from last month’s item: Steven Winter Associates cannot provide PHIUS training. (The company would have to commit to only providing training for PHIUS)
16. Alicia will contact Naomi at passivhausMAINE Aaron at PASSIVEhouse Massachusetts about how they’ve provided trainings.

EVENTS COMMITTEE

17. Our “Introduction to Passive House” program at AIACT is February 28, 5:30 – 8:30.
18. Philippe, Sara, George, and Leonard will present.
19. AIACT will handle the logistics and promote it.
20. Cat will put together our promotional plan.

OUTREACH & ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

21. Alicia will try to get feedback on the CHFA public comments from last November.
22. NEW ENGLAND PASSIVE HOUSE (NEPH) EVENT
 - a. Alicia is working with the other groups to develop another NEPH conference for 2019.
 - b. May 31 or June 7



- c. The suggested theme is “Getting to Carbon Zero Buildings” with three different tracks:
 - i. Design and building
 - ii. Air quality, health, and materials
 - iii. Climate
 - d. CTPH is uncomfortable with promoting the idea of “carbon zero” since it is not a realistic goal. Net zero energy is; people already understand it and we know how to achieve it. CTPH recommends a different focus.
 - e. A possible location is the University of New England in Biddeford, Maine. (1.5 hours from Boston)
 - f. We will try to come up with some options closer to CT, maybe central MA such as Worcester or Amherst. Nick Jones will look into some options.
 - g. 2018’s conference at Alnoba Retreat Center in Kensington New Hampshire attracted 150 attendees, about 20 of whom were from CT.
23. Katie will help connect Alicia to the Building Energy Exchange.
24. CTPH should have a “road show” program ready-to-go to present to the general public, developers, real estate agents, legislators, etc. Lunch and learns would be good, too.
25. Leonard and Sara gave a Passive House presentation to a group of about 25 Shoreline building inspectors. They received it well and were interested what we’re learning from Passive House building methodologies.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

- 26. It was agreed to put a scholarship program on hold, instead putting resources towards developing the organization such as Board training.
- 27. In the future we could seek a corporate sponsor for this.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- 28. Nick Jones and Katie Zoppo were elected as new Board members and George Penniman and Philippe Campus were reelected.

TREASURER

- 29. George gave a balance report summary. This included recent membership dues.

GROWTH COMMITTEE

- 30. There is interest in having an intern and/or a paid position. This will be part of our growth and financial plan.
- 31. Paid staff would require filing an extra tax form.
- 32. One way to pay a student intern is through their school. This has complications.
- 33. Some schools have intern programs that do not allow students to hold paid positions.



34. For reference, Nick will circulate CTGBC's Scope of Work description for their intern position.
35. For reference, passivhausMAINE and PASSIVEhouse Massachusetts have part-time (20 hours per week) staff. They are committed to producing one income-generating event per year to support staff expenses.
36. The cost of a half-time employee could be about \$25,000 plus tax commitments.
37. Bill will circulate information on a Board training program in New Haven.
38. Cat shared that Middletown's Clean Energy Task Force (CETF) uses Trello to post and share goals and progress. She will circulate more information.

COMMITTEES

39. Committee chairs were asked to define how they need help.
40. Bill suggested a "Task Force" approach with smaller definable projects rather than indefinite commitments.

MEETINGS

41. Sara proposed moving away from a monthly open meeting format, instead relying on committees to move forward on their own. The Board would continue to hold regular meetings.
42. We will hold a meeting February 19th meeting somewhere in or around New Haven. Nick will look into using the Energize CT Center in North Haven. AIACT is another possibility.

Meeting concluded at 7:45pm.

Submitted by: Sara Holmes, Secretary