

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A SUSTAINABLE WEST HARTFORD COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the Town of West Hartford is committed to fostering an inclusive, resilient, thriving community; promoting practices that lead to greater sustainability; and encouraging the responsible use and conservation of energy and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of that commitment, the Town Council established the Conservation and Environment Commission and the Clean Energy Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Town recognizes the past achievements of the Conservation and Environment Commission and Clean Energy Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires that the work carried out by the aforementioned commissions be continued, along with added duties associated with assisting the Town in achieving its sustainability goals, through one commission centered on sustainability and all its facets; and

WHEREAS, the Town finds that it is in the best interest of the community to merge the responsibilities of the commissions to establish the Sustainable West Hartford Commission by this ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WEST HARTFORD THAT:

Chapter 5, Article XVI of the Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as follows:

ARTICLE XVI [(Reserved)] Sustainable West Hartford Commission

§ 5-72 [(Reserved)] Establishment; Membership.

The Town Council hereby establishes a Sustainable West Hartford Commission consisting of eleven electors of the Town for the purpose of promoting practices that lead to greater environmental, social and economic sustainability; ensuring a high quality of life for present and future generations by fostering an inclusive, resilient, and thriving community; and encouraging the responsible use and conservation of energy and natural resources.

§ 5-73 [(Reserved)] Compensation.

The members of the Commission shall serve without compensation, but their necessary and actual expenses incurred in the performance of their actual duties shall be paid by the Town within limits of any appropriation made therefor.

§ 5-74 [(Reserved)] Qualifications; Terms.

- A. Members of the Sustainable West Hartford Commission shall have interest or experience in the field of environmental, social or economic sustainability.
- B. At the time of first appointment of the members of the Sustainable West Hartford Commission, four members shall be appointed to serve until December 31, 2024, four members shall be appointed to serve until December 31, 2025, and three members shall be appointed to serve until December 31, 2026. Upon the expiration of these initial terms, each subsequent appointment shall be for a term of three years, commencing on the first day of January.

§ 5-75 [(Reserved)] Election of Officers.

The Sustainable West Hartford Commission shall, at its first meeting following the effective date of its appointment, and annually thereafter, elect a Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary from among its members.

§ 5-76 [(Reserved)] Staff liaisons.

The Town Manager shall designate one or more representatives from his or her office or other appropriate department to serve as a staff liaison for the Sustainable West Hartford Commission for the purposes of coordination and administrative support.

§ 5-77 [(Reserved)] Duties and responsibilities.

The Commission established by this Article shall:

- A. Identify and prioritize concerns and issues relating to long-term environmental, social and economic sustainability of the Town of West Hartford with due consideration of local, regional, state, national, and global contexts.
- B. Advise and make recommendations to the Town Manager on policies, programs and proposals regarding sustainable practices including, but not limited to, environmental and ecological resources, air, water, energy, land, waste, materials management, transportation, climate change, equity and environmental justice.
- C. Collaborate with and serve as a resource for Town Council, Town departments, boards, commissions, and committees of the Town, and the community at large in order to advance a comprehensive, integrated approach to sustainability.

- D. Develop and encourage efforts, relationships and resources to educate and act on sustainability within our community and beyond, and to serve as a community liaison for issues, ideas, and proposals.
- E. File an annual written report with the Town Council. Such report shall include a summary of current sustainability initiatives, as well as recommendations for future sustainability initiatives and policy.

This ordinance shall take effect on September 1, 2023.

(LEDWITH)
May 23, 2023

ADOPTED BY THE WEST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING ON
JUNE 13, 2023.