

Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
Conference Room C

Minutes

Members Present: Lynn Stoddard, Peter Millman, Bill Lennon, Katie Fratoni, Chris Kueffner, Josh Walters, Ted Busky (guest), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by chairperson Stoddard.

Introductions were made to welcome new committee member Kueffner and guest, Busky.

The minutes of the November 6, 2025 were approved on a motion by Millman/Lennon.

Stoddard introduced the committee to the free SolarAPP+ that was developed by the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) to assist local jurisdictions by streamlining permitting for rooftop solar installations. It costs two to three times more to permit solar in the U.S. compared to other countries. The simplify solar campaign is spearheaded by Third Act, an organization advocating for renewable energy. SolarAPP+ provides free trainings on how to use the App. Guilford and East Hartford building departments are using SolarAPP+. On a motion by Millman/Kueffner, the committee approved promoting the use of the SolarAPP+ by educating the Town of its benefits. Stoddard will send a letter to the Town Manager as a first step.

Walters informed members about a brand new air-to-water heat pump technology that can easily replace oil furnace baseboard heating. This may be a technology that could be used in municipal buildings with oil heat. Members discussed the status municipal buildings renovations. The bathhouse rebuild is in the process of signing a contract with Nadler Modular Building. The Town is hoping to have an RFP ready for architectural services in late January for the animal shelter. In 2004 Town Council adopted a policy regarding the use of "LEED" building standards for Mansfield building. Members discussed whether this resolution needs to be updated to include net zero energy. The animal shelter could be another opportunity for a net zero building especially since the Town of Branford now has a net zero animal shelter. On a motion by Lennon/Walters, the committee approved Stoddard sending a letter to the Town Manager making him aware of the LEED resolution and urging the town to adopt RFPs that reflects the town's desire for net zero energy buildings.

Walton shared a revised deconstruction resolution with members. The resolution directs the Town to support a pilot deconstruction project on a municipal building. The facilities department is in agreement with the intent of the resolution. On a motion by Kueffner/Millman, the committee approved the revised wording of the resolution. The resolution will go before Town Council on January 26, 2026. Committee members are invited to speak during public comment.

The committee discussed how the \$12,500 climate leader award will be spent. The Facilities Department will spend the funds on native tree and shrub planting around the animal shelter. It was suggested that the funds be used to benefit low income residents, such as home insulation. Walton will make some inquiries and report back to the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton