

Hartford Energy Commission
Notes for March 24, 2016 Meeting

In attendance were Martha McDaniels, Peggy Allen, Alan Johnson (Selectboard Liaison), Lori Hirshfield (staff), Sarah Simonds (Vital Communities), Erik Krauss (community member).

Due to the lack of a quorum, there was not a formal meeting. The Commission members present decided to have an update on the agenda, items with no binding actions taken. The following are Notes of the discussion.

Welcome new member Peggy Allen and thank you to departing member Alan Johnson and SelectBoard liaison, Rebecca White.

Quorum issues around 5 vs 7 committee members. State statute requires a specific number of members not a range. HEC needs to recommend a number quorum to determine. Lori will identify process for formal action.

Energy Consultant - VEIC was the single respondent to the RFP.

Sarah: a lot watching us including the Sierra club. Focusing on Hanover, but aware of Hartford and the 25K. We are the first to do this. Alan asked if message to us, "interested in total town consumption."

Lori/Alan: impressed with the RFP. One of the reasons they applied.

Martha: and showed we're sophisticated.

Alan: CEIC likely lowered price so they can build a client base as well as learn. Impact could go beyond this town.

Martha: we clarified what was likely to happen. One thing we learned, Bugbee and Public Safety building – two complicated audits. Looking to them to work w/ building managers to execute most cost effective manner that makes sense for the building. Looking for building maintenance plan.

One way to get to know them is with point person, Damon Lane.

We'll send energy audits for 2 – 4 year energy consumption for the two buildings. Also pumping station in Wilder.

EV and HEC and building manager are looking at low hanging fruit on various buildings. It would be useful to know what the building managers have done. Martha: not sure it's worth determine what and when has been done. Not easy to pin down. Example Bugbee post improvements energy consumption went up.

Overall goal of their time is to leave us w/ a plan to measure energy use. For buildings getting data into Portfolio Manager – EPA provided on line tool.

Possibility of have some egregious examples at the two sites prior to Selectboard meeting would be helpful and have sound estimate of estimate of energy savings if move forward on recommendations.

Meals and Rooms tax a year off, but could tap those dollars to cover cost of recommendations.

Note: each of these buildings have dollars set aside and having seen the audit they might be able to get started in advance.

Need to recognize that some items should be done in tandem.

Air handling and HVAC are priority. Bugbee Kitchen needs work.

Public Safety Building: Heating issues dominate.

HEC currently acting as bridge between audit and building manager –

Need to build working relationship

Midterm plan: Next five year and use that to inform a long term.

Rewrite the town Master Plan chapter 10 – CEP would replace.

Lori will execute contract in next week or two. Get them building energy audit, list of projects done over time. Electricity in excel doc. Green Mt Power, 2 -3 years of town vehicle and fuel. Indexed to individual vehicle, we think so. Alan looking at past projects in 10 years. Get building manager contact info.

Martha: How would you all like to interact with them?

How to schedule the five check in meetings.

Peggy and Sarah would like to attend walk thru in early May.

Sarah will help with regional out reach.

Efficiency Vermont – pilot program – not restricted to downtown. Explore adding schools or big business.

VEIC should help outline how to take advantage of EV & how to leverage.

Alan's general data analysis energy information can be made available to VEIC.

VEIC might recommend bringing Hartford in as pilot of Community Energy Dashboard – EAN -- Energy Action Network ... three staff hub. Pull any and all energy data to a consolidated on Dashboard.

Aiming for Select board budget cycle – end of September presentation. First draft in August

Alan: poverty meeting – Housing and transportation major issue.

Communications Plan - Martha proposing taking advantage of town website.

HEC Goals 2016 - Towns people don't know about HEC recent work. At an upcoming HEC meeting dedicate a chunk of time to review HEC's diverse audiences & develop a communication strategy

Sarah sent a message today to Alan – invite to a meeting 4/27, 9 – 11am Upper Valley Weatherization Conference.