

Draft

Hartford Energy Commission Minutes May 26, 2016 Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, WRJ

Present: Martha McDaniel, Peggy Allen, Erik Krauss, Lynn Bohi
Karen Douville, Conservation Commission; Lori Hirshfield, Staff; Alan Johnson, Selectboard Liaison

Martha called the meeting to order at 6:31.

Minutes: After comments, Peggy moved and Erik seconded that the minutes pass as amended. The motion passed.

Election of Vice Chair: Peggy nominated Erik as Vice Chair and Lynn seconded. The motion passed.

Updates and Reports:

- a. Selectboard Action on Changing from 7 to 5 Members: The issue was not on the agenda. Lori will put it on the next Selectboard agenda.

- b. VEIC Consultancy: In terms of data collection, the HEC members discussed what is needed from the departments, which includes raw KW and costs, as well as the numbers of fleet vehicles. The next steps are in three categories: planning for action items from the audits, including sequencing and budgeting; developing the five-year energy plan, including an implementation strategy; and going from the five-year plan to the long term comprehensive energy plan, including compliance with the State Plan, and leading to revisions to Chapter 10, the energy section the Town's Master Plan. The subcommittee is comprised of Martha, Erik and Lori, and they will be meeting every two weeks with VEIC, mostly via phone. The VEIC project manager is Juliette and Lori is Hartford's lead, and will copy Erik and Martha on all information. For the audit portion, Tim Peron is in charge. When Tim takes a "walk thru" of the buildings, Sarah and Peggy will accompany him. The timeline is VEIC draft due to the subcommittee August 1st; HEC reviews draft at its August 25th meeting; final draft report and discussion with the Selectboard, end of September, early October depending of the budget cycle timeline. .

Erik wrote a Press Release, which members reviewed and approved. Lori will send to her regular media list and also add Vital Communities, Hartford School District, neighboring towns, VECAN, and local State Representatives and Senators.

- c. Downtown GMP Electric Car Charger: The financing of the required solar panel equivalent to the anticipated electrical usage is still an issue. This is approximately 6-7 kWH, about seventeen panels, which will cost roughly \$21,000 outright. Suggestions included: talk to VEIC; check with solar companies to see if they will "in house" finance; put the issue in the specifications of the

Vendor RFP ;, and ask the Chamber of Commerce for financial assistance, since having a charger should draw more people to Town. This project was added to the VEIC subcommittee to discuss as part of the project implementation part of the contract scope of work.

- d. Town Webpage: The subcommittee has met twice. The concept is to make the site more user friendly and solution oriented. Sustainability is another possible topic to add. Information sharing with non appointed people has not yet been addressed. It might be helpful to have a list of projects with people involved, project function, dates, and who is affected.
- e. Community Energy Efficiency Program (Pilot Project): This applies to the whole town as well as all sectors. The Efficiency Vermont (EVT) person will be in town one or two times a month, and will meet with one-on-one with people who have appointments. Residents and business owners will need to be educated about the program. The plan will be to walk through buildings, rather than conduct formal audits. The program kick off will be in July. Two information brochures will be developed, one for residents and one for businesses. June 14 is the next planning meeting from 4:30 to 6:30.
- f. Community Resilience Organization: Cathy attended a meeting and was asked about HEC activities. Cathy will be the liaison. The group is planning a Hazardous Awareness weeklong event from August 24-27, timed around the fifth anniversary of the flooding caused by Tropical Storm Irene. Events will include workshops and information sessions. HEC was asked if someone could present on the topic of renewable energy. Alan could do this. It should contain interactive parts, resources and a take away along with questions and answers. The audience needs to be considered in all this. It would be helpful to have a specific date and time to narrow the focus better. Lori will find out more information. A group was formed to work on the presentation: Alan, Lynn, Erik.
- g. Weatherize Upper Valley: Vital Communities (VC) is promoting this new program. It would be good to have a list of contractors, goals of the program, and the timeframe. Vital Communities would like towns or a group of towns to apply. Energy Star is one program to certify contractors. VC is looking at what has worked in past programs and will try to use similar concepts about how to inspire people to do the work.
- h. Regional Energy Plan: The Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission is seeking comments by the end of the summer, 2016, on the draft plan, which Lori distributed the previous week. All town and regional plans are now required to state how to reach the State Energy Plan goals. HEC members will put comments on the draft Regional Energy Plan in writing and send to Lori by June 13th. She will collate and distribute for discussion at the July 28th HEC meeting. Also, need to coordinate comments with other Town Boards and Commissions.
- i. Hartford Community Coalition: There is a block party on June 2 from 5:00 to 8:00. HEC will apply to have a table. Alan, Peggy and Erik will staff it. Set up is at 4:00pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi, Clerk