

Draft Hartford Energy Commission Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2016, 6:30 PM

Hartford Town Hall, Conference Room 2

171 Bridge Stet, WRJ

Present: Commission Members - Cathy Geiger, Erik Krauss, Martha McDaniel, Peggy Allen, Lynn Bohi  
Other - Alan Johnson, Selectboard liaison; Leo Pullar, Town Manager; Lori Hirshfield, staff; Gaye Travers, guest

Martha called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM

Minutes: May- Changes were suggested. Erik moved and Peggy seconded that the May minutes pass as amended. The motion passed.

June- Two versions had been presented. It was decided to use Martha's version. Minor suggestions were made. Cathy moved the minutes be accepted as amended. Erik seconded and the motion passed.

CROH: This weeklong event to promote resilience is being held around the Irene storm anniversary. The plans for final Saturday have been scaled back to better reflect what may be possible. Martha will speak on Monday's panel about HEC activities. Alan and Cathy will speak on Tuesday. Ideas were discussed about possible styles. It was decided to let the subcommittee make the determination.

VEIC Consultants: There has been much work done on all aspects: following up on the audits, short-term budget considerations and actions, and a long-range plan. For the audits, they have sorted what work should and should not be done in the near term. The Fire and Police Chiefs have the list. The ventilation issue is both important and expensive and will be discussed within the next two weeks. How to make the police station more officer work friendly is being considered at the same time. All this will help with the Departments' budgeting. For the Bugbee Center, Len Brown, the director of the center, was not available, so not much has been discussed. The subcommittee was surprised to note that the range/stove was not suggested to be replaced soon. There are some questions about the timing of adding heat pumps and sealing openings. The Bugbee may be a candidate for deep energy retrofit, which means a 50% decrease in energy usage, and possibly eligible for different financing.

Downtown Electric Vehicle Charge and Sites for Net Meeting (addition to the agenda): Lori Hirshfield reported that the Selectboard decided on Tuesday to submit net metering applications to the VT Public Service Board for several sites in Town, consideration being WABA, Wilder Pump Station, WRJ Wastewater Treatment Facility, Public Works Building, Public Safety Building, and a site in West Hartford. The maximum capacity allowed for this net metering is 150Kw. Acceptable Applications selected by a lottery. If the town is awarded, the site could be used as the offset needed for the Green Mountain electric vehicle charger station in the Legion parking lot.

HEC Webpage: The idea is to expand the HEC page to include resources for the public. The Website committee is researching which organizations to link to for resources information. An energy usage educational component about common tasks people need to do, like buying or selling a house, would be

useful to have. Other components could include testimonials from people who have made energy savings improvements (Sarah has these), and HEC newsletter information. The Town has a program called *SharePoint*, which allows document sharing with anyone who uses Microsoft. The Webpage subcommittee is looking at how to use this too.

Community Energy Efficiency Program (CEEEP): Members took a tour of the VERMOD factory and model home. An example project is homes being built for a defunct mobile home park in Addison County; these will cost \$411 a month plus lot rent of around \$300, and includes all appliances, and solar panels and a battery. The CEEP plan is for Efficiency Vermont (EVT) people to be in town two days a month to give existing groups informational talks (Lions, Rotary, and Bugbee Center) and for open house hours at village gathering places. Building tours can be arranged for these days too. EVT will point out the low hanging fruit items and, if applicable, suggest a full audit. The days scheduled so far are July 26 with Rotary and downtown WRJ, and August 8 in Quechee at Jakes Market and the library. There is also a fundraising event available for schools to sell LED light bulbs. Tom Debalsi has agreed to this project and is working on it. HEC was going to talk to the schools about energy savings. The CEEP project seems like a good time to do so. Martha and Lynn will talk to Tom.

Weatherize UV Campaign: No news, but a meeting is scheduled for August 10.

Regional Energy Plan: There is a tentative date for a joint meeting of HEC and the Planning Commission (PC) at 6:00 pm on August 8<sup>th</sup> to formulate the Town's response to the Plan. There will be another meeting at the end of August with Chris Sergeant, from the RPC. Each town will have a unique goal that will enable the state to meet its goal. HEC also needs to think about the sensitive areas and how to use them. In September, the feedback will go to the Regional Planning Commission HEC should talk to VEIC about a response to the draft Regional Energy Plan report. Overall, the idea is to balance what is best for Hartford with how that fits into the region.

Regional Land Use Plan: The land use section also is being updated now. The Planning Commission will do most of the work on this, but HEC is welcome also. Lori will share the dates with HEC. There is no outline or draft now. The Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission is looking for input on what issues need to be considered as they begin to develop the draft plan update.

VEIC Consultants (additional information): The draft of the five-year Energy Implementation Plan is due to the subcommittee on August 15. On August 25 HEC meeting, there will be a video conference call with VEIC about the plan.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi, Clerk

August agenda: update the kit that HEC takes to public events