

Hartford Energy Commission Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2016

Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, WRJ

Present: Cathy Geiger, Martha McDaniel, Peggy Allen, Lynn Bohi, Erik Krauss
Alan Johnson, Selectboard Liaison; via internet Juliette Juillerat, Damon Lane, and Stephanie Morse, all from VEIC, the consulting group for the Five Year Energy Plan

Martha called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Energy Action Plan (EAP) Draft Presentation and Discussion: Introductions were made. The EAP scope is town owned buildings, vehicles, and infrastructure. The Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP) will focus on schools and residents. Hartford has typical usage for a Town which has water and wastewater services, with the highest electric use in heating and transportation.

Prior to the meeting, the consultants had asked HEC to make and send comments to them. These were reviewed during the meeting.

- a. Adding Return on Investment (ROI): VEIC would need to perform detailed audits and analysis to calculate ROI for each recommendation in the EAP, which is not in the scope of the project. Instead, they can do a range of values, in some cases from 16 to 50%. They will make a table listing projects with the best potential for money saved.
- b. They will break water into categories. Rich Menge asked for a water audit to check for leaks. Information about leak tools will be in the EAP (?).
- c. HEC would like case studies and anecdotes from other towns
- d. Is there a way for water customers to use less water since they know the rates will increase- yes, decouple rate from use. Hartford could shoot for 10% water usage reduction or perhaps 5%. The point was made that customers pay a variable rate based on consumption. It is possible that if use goes down and the rate goes up, that the cost for ratepayers will remain the same. Hartford could create a water efficiency program, involving low flow shower heads and aerators. Our water plants are new and may have more capacity than we are using, and as the town grows, the rates could be reduced.
- e. It would be good to have a table or key opportunities and yearly savings
- f. The data can be sorted by yearly saving instead of ROI
- g. It would be nice to have a chart with opportunities, energy savings, dollar savings, and ROI
- h. Renewable energy generation and battery storage: VEIC needs to determine how much renewable electricity Hartford is generating and recommend which GMP accounts the solar credits should be applied to for optimal savings (prioritizing non-enterprise accounts)
- i. Electric school busses are possible with Green Mountain Power owning the battery and the school owning the busses. This may be covered 100%. Possibility of combining school busses with Advance Transit might be discussed.
- j. Mention of renewable energy is missing. Group net metering opportunity should be mentioned

- k. Is there somewhere that turbines can be put in the water system?
- l. Energy coordinator cannot be paid for in the short term by money saved. There is some savings left in buildings, but not as much as in other towns, since Hartford has done so many things.
- m. If Hartford went into a battery owning business that might pay for the coordinator. This idea needs more work. Hartford could host a community solar array and use it to pay coordinator. We need a coordinator to work with residents and businesses about how to save money.
- n. Consultants will layout projects and savings and will not have a decision about hiring a coordinator.
- o. VEIC invested time manipulating (collating, organizing, etc.) the raw data delivered by the Town in order to prepare the EAP; HEC would like the cleaned up data delivered in electronic form.
- p. Tracking energy use in the future should be done using portfolio manager. Efficiency Vermont (EVT) can electronically upload data to portfolio manager. The dashboard will also help. We should use both. Portfolio manager focuses on building use and compares similar use buildings by region while the dashboard focuses on the future and much of the data is town wide.
- q. Graphs will be in the text and appendices.
- r. Transportation: Bio diesel has changed and there are quality issues. VTrans will shortly have specifications. The town may already use biodiesel, HEC to investigate.
- s. HEC was asked to compile all other issues, including spelling and grammar, by next Thursday, Sept 1.
- t. VEIC will add a section at the beginning with opportunities and costs and recommendations.
- u. VEIC will send the document to HEC by September 22. Juliette will email relevant dates.
- v. The next subcommittee meeting will be Monday noon, August 29.

July 21. 2016 HEC Minutes: Amendments were made. Erik moved the minutes pass as amended and Peggy seconded. The motion passed.

Announcements:

- a. REV conference: Renewable Energy Vermont has a conference in Burlington that Alan usually attends with HEC paying. He asked if HEC could still pay. Erik may be interested in attending.
- b. The charter says that HEC has seven members. Thus, we need two more members. Lori had said she will ask Gaye Travers.
- c. Weatherize Upper Valley: The RFP will be outlined and explained on September 8 at the Montshire Museum from 6:30 to 8:00. Applications from towns must be in by October 3.

Many agenda items were not covered. Martha will send a doodle poll about possible dates for a middle September meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi, Clerk