

Draft Hartford Energy Commission Minutes
January 26, 2017
Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, WRJ, VT

Present: Martha McDaniel, Peggy Allen, Erik Krauss, Lynn Bohi, Cathy Geiger; Alan Johnson, Selectboard Liaison; Lori Hirshfield, Staff

Martha called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Minutes: The minutes were amended. Peggy moved and Erik seconded that the December minutes be approved as amended.

Weatherize Upper Valley Campaign: There are 52 people from Hartford in the People Tracker indicating interest in the program, one of whom has signed the first contract in the Connecticut River group of towns. Ten of the 52 have completed the profile. The Kick Off event on January 18th at the Montshire Museum for all participating towns went well, with ten to fourteen people signing up from the four towns. There is a webinar tonight. Several from the subcommittee gave a short briefing on the program at the January 17th Selectboard meeting. Cathy is willing to have an open house and is working on a date. Peggy went to the Town dump on Saturday to publicize the program, which went well. There is a Public Service Announcement on facebook and also on CATV. The HEC Weatherize subcommittee will be at most of community and public meetings for Town Meeting Day: January 9, February 27, and March 4. Having a table periodically at Tuckerbox was suggested since Efficiency Vermont received good traffic with its outreach last year. Financing information is available, but it is unknown if PACE is part of that; Lynn will inquire.

HEC Logo: Peggy has asked a local marketing firm to design the HEC logo. They discussed the concepts HEC formed in December. It will be pro bono work, with recognition somehow. The question arose where to use the logo. The consensus was that once we see the logo, we will know.

VEIC Consultant Contract

Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP): The HEC subcommittee asked VEIC to change the structure of the report. The content is fine. They also asked for the reference sources to be included. The final version should be coming soon. VEIC will probably be presenting to the Selectboard in late February.

Building Audits: Some efficiency work on the Public Safety building is included in the Police and Fire Departments current budget, using existing funds. There are no energy funding requests for the Bugbee Senior Center building in the 2017-2018 budget. T Maintenance on the hood is programmed from the current year budget. The Selectboard's perspective was to combine these energy improvements with other departments' efficiency projects in future budget requests. Also, the Bugbee Senior Center Director, Len Brown, preferred combining the energy improvements with other needed building improvement to minimize the amount of disruption to senior programs. One subcommittee question was what else should VEIC do to complete the contract. The subcommittee will meet with the Fire and Police Chiefs, and Len Brown to discuss this.

HEC Strategy for Tracking HEC Projects in a Central Town Location: Martha reported that she has been working with James Gerjevic (the Town IT person) on using the Town's **Intranet** capability to structure this. People are given access to post updates on the projects. This module would not have general public access, although any information on it is public. It would function like working files, and at the conclusion of a project, could be converted into resource documents, some of which could be put on the Town Website. For example, at the end of the weatherize program, HEC should write up the successes and lessons learned. A related topic is restructuring the HEC website, and using parts of VEIC's new Dashboard. Martha, Alan and Cathy will be the website subcommittee. They will start importing information on the HEC Google drive to the Town site.

Events: Town Meeting Cycle: Weatherize Upper Valley will have tables at the February 27th and March 4th events. For March 4th, HEC will have a table with the light board and new giveaway items: (light bulbs, shower heads, foil tape, and power strips), and the energy information boards and materials from Efficiency Vermont. It also would be an opportunity to recruit a new HEC member and other volunteers. There was discussion about what the message should be, such as "did you know" or a high level "why is efficiency important". Peggy, Lori and Martha will work on this.

Regional Energy Plan: There is a third draft of the Regional Energy Implementation Plan as of January 13. It is reformatted and easier to follow. This is the final draft before Regional Commission public hearings. Martha suggested HEC focus on the energy siting alternatives in Chapter 6 which is new. There are preferred, unsuitable and significant areas. HEC should focus on the mid range sites and label sites HEC thinks should not be developed. Lori clarified that the Implementation Plan is a component of the Energy Section of the Regional Plan (see page 1 of the 1/12/17 draft of the Regional Plan Energy Section). , HEC also should read and comment on this Energy Section. There will be at least two community public hearings in April, hopefully one in Hartford, after which the RPC will revise the draft for the May TRORC Board public hearing in May. Comments are welcome any time through the final hearing May. Lori recommended getting comments to her to collate no later than the end of April so they can be considered for the revised draft going to the TRORC Board in May. Please refer to page and section number. Both documents should be on Two Rivers Regional Commission website. Members could not find the link: Lori will find the correct link and forward to the HEC members.

Member recruitment: Ashley Andreas has applied and will talk to the Selectboard on January 31st.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi, Clerk

After meeting note: PACE funding is mentioned on the page about funding for weatherize clients.