

**DRAFT**  
**Hartford Energy Commission Minutes**  
**May 28, 2020**

**Present:** Molly Smith, Martha McDaniel, Niki Thran, Erik Krauss, Lynn Bohi, Fred Randall; Alan Johnson, Selectboard liaison; Geoff Martin, staff

Erik called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

The statement of Act 92 compliance was read.

**Agenda changes:** Add CROH update.

**Minutes:** After some corrections, Martha moved and Niki seconded that the April 23 minutes pass as amended. The motion passed.

**Chair election:** Erik has become the Chair of the Climate Advisory Committee and he would like to resign as Chair of HEC but remain a member of HEC. Niki nominated Martha, who declined. Martha nominated Molly, who asked if she could co-chair with someone else who has been on HEC longer. After a discussion about mentoring, Molly accepted the nomination for Chair. Niki seconded Martha's motion. The motion passed. Molly was congratulated.

**Significant Updates:**

**Building integrity:**

- A letter will be sent to all banks in Hartford about the Joint Resolution Declaring a Climate Emergency, Town Plan, and Net Zero Pilot Program, all of which lead to needing new methods of home appraisal. Accompanying the letter is a list of green appraisers in Vermont.
- The net zero program has four participants. Building permits have increased. A press release has been written to announce the program. Toward the end of the building season, HEC will meet with the participants to discuss issues. Hopefully, other people will join to hear about the program and perhaps join the program.

**Climate Advisory Committee:**

- There are some differences and similarities between HEC and CAC. The metrics are different in that HEC focuses on the amount of energy used and the costs thereof, and CAC focuses on greenhouse gas emissions. CAC will work with CROH about adaption and with HEC about reducing emissions. CAC will work to reduce emissions across all three scopes – direct emissions (Scope 1), purchased electricity (Scope 2), indirect emissions (Scope 3).
- In general, CAC meets the second Wednesday of the month at 5:00pm. They are working on an RFP for the Climate Action Plan, including the expectations, and logistics. It should be complete around June 1.

Social Media: Niki has written a post about the Town Manager electric vehicle. The Town Manager asked that it not be released until the town is open. Niki could write another post about HEC's new Chair.

CROH: They too have a new chair, Jack Spicer. They discussed the future and will continue the focus on different purposes for the town parks. There will not be a potato fest. The neighborhood captains idea has been shelved.

#### Transportation Work Group:

- Vermont Law School summer session opened this week. The Energy Clinic will work on cleaner transportation via electric cars. They will work in Hartford to do outreach on the benefits of electric cars and about how to buy them. They will work with Vital Communities about how other towns can use the program. They will look at Hartford ordinances about vehicles and hope to present their progress to HEC at the end of the summer.
- The carpool program is still on hold because of the virus, as is the electric bike program. However, all paperwork is ready as soon as things open up. The bike program depends on libraries to loan the bikes, and it is waiting for the libraries to reopen.

#### Energy Coordinator Updates:

- A REALice system is being investigated for WABA. Currently, water is heated by two on demand propane heaters for the zamboni to resurface the ice. One has broken, and since they are the same age, the other is thought to be vulnerable. Replacing them with heat pump water heaters would cost around \$80,000. There is a new technology called REALice which uses cold water and a vortex to remove the bubbles in the water in the zamboni. Geoff contacted Efficiency Vermont. The idea seems to be going forward to Parks & Recreation and the Selectboard.
- Public Safety ventilation system: The work started May 28 and should be finished next week. Heat pumps are being scoped. Efficiency Vermont may be able to provide up to \$55,000 in incentives if the Town participates in the Deep Energy Retrofit Program.
- Bugbee: Geoff is looking at a design for heat pumps and at participating in the Deep Energy Retrofit program there as well.
- VLITE mobile home heat tape redesign: UVM has a program for seniors to design solutions for community problems. Hartford and Thetford will apply to have the students design a practical, easy to reproduce, easy to install, and less expensive way to keep exposed water pipes under mobile homes from freezing.

#### Miscellaneous:

- Window Dressers: June 1 the board will meet to decide if or how the Window Dresser program can proceed.
- VECAN has a google groups for energy groups to discuss issues with each other. Look in google groups for Vermont Energy and Climate Action to subscribe. There are several subgroups.
- Should HEC promote heat pumps on social media or air source/hybrid water heaters?

- The Vermont Public Utilities Commission is now allowing Tesla battery owners to help offset peak use times. FERC 841 in 2018 had allowed batteries over 100kW to help reduce peak loads.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Bohi, Clerk