

**DRAFT**  
**Hartford Energy Commission minutes**  
**January 23, 2020**

**Present:** Molly Smith, Martha McDaniel, Erik Krauss, Lynn Bohi, Niki Thran: Kevin Grady, Strafford Energy Committee; Alan Johnson, Selectboard Liaison; Linda Miller, guest; Heidi Underbakke, COVER; Jon Alvin, guest; Geoff Martin, staff

Erik called the meeting to order at 6:30.

**Minutes:** After some wording suggestions, Martha moved and Niki seconded that the December minutes be accepted as amended. The motion passed.

**Coffee with Committees:** Committees may table at Town and School District Meeting Day on Saturday, February 29, from 9:00 to 10:00 to talk with residents in the high school gym. HEC will have a presence. The Commission needs to bring the table, name tags, and the tri-fold. The message will feature the Climate Emergency, the Go! Vermont app, and perhaps past and future HEC campaigns. Martha is talking to other committees to see if they would like to coordinate the climate emergency message. Items to emphasize: the Resolution committing the Town to achieving net-zero GHG emissions Town-wide by 2030, the ballot initiative requiring that the development and operation of municipal infrastructure and equipment be carbon neutral by 2027, a definition of “carbon neutral”, and perhaps a selection of work group actions being planned. HEC should gather emails and also ask people how they think Hartford should get to net zero. Molly, Niki, Jon, and Erik volunteered to be at the event.

**Mobile Home Outreach:** HEC is working with Vital Communities (VC) on a door to door campaign to tell residents about the programs available to them to save heat and money. After being trained by Vital Communities, pairs of volunteers will visit a mobile home park chosen by VC. Erik will check with Ana to see if she will send the residents a letter in advance to let them know that commissioners will be coming through the park. Last time HEC did this, there were two campaign events – one on a Saturday and one on a weekday evening. The event will take place before the end of March. A doodle poll will be sent for a training date. Erik will ask Ana about shortening the training. Everyone in the room volunteered to help out.

**COVER:** COVER has invited all HEC members to work on/observe a weatherization project on a mobile home in WRJ on Friday, February 14. Teams usually work from 9:00 to 4:00.

**2020 work group plans and goals:** HEC will align its year-long work plan with the Town’s fiscal year (July 1 – June 30) to line up goals and costs. This year the budget planning will start in August. HEC will finalize its requests in September. The Climate Action Plan is due at the end of September.

**Transportation work group:**

- Carpool for the Climate: Work with several major employers to encourage their employees who live along Route 4 to carpool and will set up mini park and rides along the route. They will also promote Go! Vermont to facilitate carpooling.

- E bike lending library: Libraries in five towns will serve as lending facilities. There will be four bikes available. The group would like to ask participants about the barriers to purchasing a bike.
- Upper Valley Electrify Transport Campaign: in collaboration with Vermont Law School and VC, they want to find out why more people do not buy electric cars. HEC will collect Hartford data. Turo is an app that is an alternative to traditional rental car companies, and allows people to rent vehicles, including electric vehicles, to see if they work for them.

#### Building Integrity Work Group

- Launch the Net Zero (NZ) pilot project: Involve builders, architects, developers, lenders who will ask customers if they would like to build using any of four NZ standards instead of the existing energy code and then report on any challenges of/suggestions for the program on at least two projects. It may take up to two years to gather enough data to know if the NZ standard will work as a requirement, or if major changes need to be made before making it a standard.
- Window Dressers: The work group wants to set up a volunteer group to bring the program to Hartford. Cost will be \$25.00 to \$40.00 per window.
- Connect VSECU and SEVCA: SEVCA has a waiting list of people who need weatherization, but who are not being served because others who have fewer resources are served first. The Heat Saver Loan program, administered by VSECU, might be a way to serve these people.
- Heat Tape: heat tape is used by many mobile home owners to keep water pipes outside of the home's thermal envelope from freezing. It is often not insulated and running 24/7. The work group is interested in applying for a grant through VLITE to implement a solution to this problem.
- Condo Association Weatherization: If there is time and energy, follow up on Efficiency Vermont's (EVT) program designed for Coach Road condos and see if it can be replicated at other condo associations. Coach Road condos had specific needs and EVT designed a solution.

Window Dressers: April 1 is the deadline to register the Town in the program. HEC tasks are to promote the program and to sign people up. Pairs of volunteers will measure the windows with a laser and record the information digitally in September, October, or November. Hartford and other Vermont towns will assemble and install the frames in December 2020 or January/February 2021. Assembly and installation takes five or six days. There would be two shifts per day of 10 to 12 people, with a target of 225 inserts total. HEC will need two or three leaders and Resilient Hartford has some interested members along with some community members who are aware of the program. A kitchen manager is also needed. Perhaps the teams could be organized by village. Strafford and Thetford participated in this round and Capstone sent letters to clients to solicit participants. It may be possible to pair with Hartland, who is interested. Another place to find volunteers may be the Hartford Conservation

Commission. Most houses have 20 to 25 windows. Volunteers as of now: Molly, Linda, Niki, Alan, Lynn, and maybe Martha. HEC may need to have a fund raiser to support the effort.

Miscellaneous

- Linda is willing to host an open house for farms about solar panels.
- Go! Vermont needs to have more local business sponsors.
- Geoff has had an initial conversation with QLLA about hosting a community solar array.
- Resilient Hartford: the Preparedness Workshop is Monday, January 27.
- TCI regional meetings are being held. There is one in Springfield on February 13 from 6:00 to 8:00.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23.

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Bohi, Clerk