

Cast Meeting Feb 2, 2022

Carolyn recapped her formatting plan for the SB report. Molly suggested the inclusion of the Three-Town Drive Electric Event on April 23 in our report. Report might also include a draft copy of the EV booklet—depending on availability. CAST may want to include language in the report that suggests revisiting the language in the management plan for the town forest in terms of carbon mitigation. A key question: Does a selective harvest advance (or detract from) the town's climate action plan in light of the emerging science about forest management and carbon. *(An update since the CAST meeting. The Hartford Conservation Commission has been studying the most recent studies surrounding this question and is scheduled to discuss the question. Rather than CAST duplicating the HCC's effort, it probably is best to let the Conservation Commission take the lead on this question at the present time.)*

Jenny Carter joined the meeting to answer questions about zoning and EVs. She said Vermont towns only have the authority states give them, AKA Dylan's rule. Appropriate statutes can be found online. Jenny said there is no legal impediment to adopting a stretch code. Dana spoke about the difficulty of adopting base versus stretch code because of time frame and the lack of qualified HERS Raters required to verify new construction meet the Stretch Code.

Open Question: Can the town require heat pumps on all new construction? Answer needs additional research.

Jenny recommends that the Hartford keep the renewable credits for post-2017 municipal solar installations so it can claim credit. Dana said that Hartford has met the cap for municipal solar systems so there is no opportunity for CAST to influence a decision regarding town REC credits. It is better that CAST encourage the private adoption of solar and educate residents on the nuances of the REC credits. For residential installation it could be a suggestion that the homeowner retain the credits. Making retention of credits as a requirement is a gray area.

Budget Recap: Dana is working with Tracey to figure out if he has actually money to spend in 2022 versus advising town departments on the best practice in terms of advancing climate goals. He is learning where his influence will be when it comes to building the operation budget versus capital spending budget. Carolyn asked about funding for community initiatives that are not operations or capital. Dana talked to Tracey about the establishment of Green reserve fund so, for example, the town can plan the replacement for something new heating system in advance rather than buying a similar replacement when a system fails.

Open question for Dana to follow-up: Does CAST need SB permission to spend for the Climate Reserve Fund? What is the protocol for spending the money? When will the account be funded? (Dana funding could be July 1. He will verify.)

Dana has money to spend print Climate Action Plan. He asked about requirements about paper etc. Carolyn suggests that going to Gnomes copy for the answers.

Next meeting: Feb 10 @ 5 PM