

Hartford Energy Commission minutes
February 16, 2023

Present in person: Molly Smith Dunn (2025), Jesse Pollard (2023), Lynn Bohi. (2024); Dana Clawson, staff, Eric Francis, guest

Present virtually: Esme Cole (2025), Laura Simon (2026), Ashton Todd (2023); Emily Henrich and Matthew Timofov, guests

Jesse called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

Agenda: no changes

Minutes: Lynn pointed out some typos. Molly moved and Esme second that the minutes pass as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Eric had comments about the REV presentation last month. The pie chart showed most of Vermont's energy comes from NE mix and nuclear and that Vermont needs more renewables. He did research and found the ISO is 50/50% of nuclear/coal and gas. He found in Vermont 92% of renewable are carbon free. Vermont needs to reduce carbon in Transportation and housing. Hydro Quebec (HQ) has 40 terawatts of power. This could be sent to the New England system. HQ is made up of 681 dams. There are reasons to oppose HQ in the past, but it is currently built and the damage has been done. He was asked several questions and also asked to make a presentation next month.

Coordinators's report:

- The Dartmouth energy group will audit the West Hartford library and Dana has discussed this with the librarian and board chair. The library would like to be a resource center during weather and power emergencies. They hope to add heat pumps and batteries.
- He will be presenting at a Vermont municipal maintenance conference in June
- In May, Lori will hold an ADU event and add an energy efficiency component
- Window Dressers is looking for volunteers to help organize an Upper Valley build
- UNH will present to the Selectboard about their carbon report
- The Town Manager car is a lease. People want to change it to be an all wheel drive vehicle. Dana and Molly will look into the lease to determine steps forward

Coffee with Committees: This is part of the Town Meeting cycle and prior to the Saturday floor meeting. It is from 9 to 10am on Saturday, March 4 in the high school gym. It is an opportunity to talk, answer questions, and promote our upcoming events. Volunteers were: Jess, Esme, Lynn and Laura.

Hartford facilities tour: Dana, Molly and Jesse toured WABA and learned much. The next tour will be waste water treatment plant in March.

Subcommittees:

- Energize Upper Valley: This will be Saturday, April 1 from 11-3 at the LISTEN dining room. All 15 tables are booked with a variety of presenters. Dartmouth energy group is preparing posters, sample emails, sample listserv posts, and radio spots. Their work will be ready by March 1. March 8 the materials will be distributed to other partner towns for distribution. They also plan to ask people what they want to see and what kinds of questions the presenters should expect. Linda Grey has lined up 14 electric vehicles. Anna Gunther can do Ebike demos, but no bike loans. The Dartmouth group will also audit the West Hartford library before April 1, using equipment from COVER. Molly asked if HEC has funds to pay for printing the Dartmouth materials. There is enough. Molly moved and Jesse seconded that HEC will donate up to \$500.00 for printing materials for Energize Upper Valley materials, Motion passed unanimously.
- Trailblazers and Energy Works: The Hartland UU Church sent some money to Trailblazers. All the funding for the program is complete. There should be some informational materials about the program to recruit participants. These materials could also go to Hartford High and HACTC.

Announcements:

- The housing chapter of the Master Plan is being updated. There is a public meeting on Tuesday, February 28 at 6:30pm via zoom. The link is on the Town website.
- Dana provided guidance to Hartford High student exploring EV charging at Hartford High.
- It may be possible to have solar panels on the WABA roof. There may be Federal money to upgrade the roof. Or there could be a solar canopy over the parking lot or on the grounds,

The meeting adjourned at 6:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi, Clerk