

**Hartford Energy Commission minutes**  
**February 25, 2021 via Zoom**

Call to Order: Molly called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM by reading the Statement of Act 92 Compliance, and called roll call.

Present: Fred Randall (phone), Martha McDaniel, Ashton Todd, Erik Krauss; Molly, Matt Osborn staff, Sally Bellew, guest (phone), Lynn Bohi joined at 5:17pm

Additions and Changes to the Agenda: Molly had some minor changes. No other changes/additions were suggested.

January Meeting Minutes: Martha moved and Fred seconded approving the Jan meeting minutes as drafted. The motion passed unanimously.

BIPOC Statement of Support: Molly is working with HEC Selectboard liaisons (Rachel Edens has taken over for Emma B. as liaison so Molly has been in communication with both) to get approval to post the statement on the Town website. Rachel and Emma have expressed support but wanted to check with the Town Manager regarding the statement. Erik commented that it is the Selectboard that is in a position to approve the statement and suggested the HEC Chair ask the Board Chair to put this item on an upcoming agenda for board consideration and approval, at which time they may solicit input from the Town Manager or other staff.

HEC Herald / March edition: Molly suggested the March edition would include: 1) "Surviving Progress" for suggested viewing, 2) an article highlighting women in climate change/energy transition work (since March is Women's History Month), 3) promotion of the 3/18 electric vehicle (EV) webinar (an EV 101 webinar organized by VLS Institute for Energy & Environment staff and students as part of a project to promote EV adoption in the UV), 4) promotion of the Hartford/Local Motion e-bike lending program. And Ashton suggested an article on grid resilience & micro grids with recent events in Texas serving as the backdrop. Commissioners discussed points this article could address including: renewable energy generation, in and of itself, is not a source of grid vulnerability during extreme weather events and GMP pilot and other local projects focused on "islanding". Molly asked that all March Herald content be sent to her by March 12 for compilation.

Significant Activity:

Climate Advisory Committee: The first workshop was in February with another scheduled for the first week in March. The committee is sending informative articles to residents about Town Meeting warrant article 22, regarding funding for CAC future projects. There are many new players and energy organizations asking CAC for resources, vendors, and work plan ideas. There are two strands concerning municipal carbon neutrality. They are developing policies for both. The audience for this is the Selectboard and the staff, so that each department will know how the policies affect their department.

Building Integrity: The UVM mobile home replacement for heat tape is coming along. They are working on an insulated duct to surround the pipes and a fan system which brings in heat from the

home and returns it to the home after warming the pipes. They also need to work on ease of installation.

Transportation:

- There is a webinar on March 18 put on by the Vermont Law School students about electric vehicles. This is tailored for Hartford and goes over the nuts and bolts of EVs: rebates, home charging, the lifestyle of each kind of car and owners.
- Bike Benefits program: This will start in May after HEC does the advertising.
- E-bikes: we have them from Sunday, April 18 until May 8. HEC needs to coach riders, hold a demo day, and clean and ready the bikes for the next user. All members agreed to help. We will have three bikes. Everyone needs to attend in the afternoon of April 18 at Town Hall. Bikes need to be kept under cover, to be reserved, and may not be transported on a rack. Matt will talk to Lori about storage and permissions. Rentals should only occur during Town Hall open hours. We will hold demo days on April 24, Earth Day and May 1, Green Up Day. Time slots will be 2 hours. One of us needs to be there when the bikes are taken out to show how to use, and at the end to clean and go over the questionnaire. Bikes will be rented from Monday to Wednesday and Wednesday to Friday. Sign up for HEC will be on SharePoint. Martha will try to have a coach from either Norwich or Thetford to help.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi with appreciation to Erik who took minutes while Lynn was lost in space/the web.