

DRAFT
Hartford Energy Commission Minutes
February 27, 2020

Present: Martha McDaniel, Erik Krauss, Fred Randall, Lynn Bohi, Molly Smith, Niki Thran; Jon Alvin, guest; Ana Mejia, Vital Communities; Linda Miller, guest; Kevin Grady, Strafford Energy Committee; Geoff Martin, staff

Erik called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

Minutes: Martha moved and Niki seconded that the January minutes pass as amended. The motion passed.

Coffee with Committees: Coffee with Committees will be held before Town Meeting on Saturday, February 29 from 9:00 to 10:00 AM. Jon and Niki will work the table. Martha made “Climate Emergency” signs, which will also be displayed at HCC and Resilient Hartford tables. HEC will have a computer for Go! Vermont sign ups, copies of the Climate Resolution language, a hand out about the Resolution, a poster showing per capita greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in New England, and a signup sheet for people interested in HEC. HEC’s message could be that we all need to do something to address climate change and here are some options (e.g. Go! Vermont, the Climate Emergency Resolution, etc.).

The Hartford Community Coalition Block Party: the HCC Block Party will be Wednesday, June 10 from 5:00 to 8:00 PM at Lyman Point Park and the Town Hall grounds. HEC will have a table. Future meetings will go over details.

Updates:

Vital Communities: Ana thanked those who went to the group training and asked those who could not attend to contact her. The planning meeting to work on details will be Monday, March 2 at 3:00pm in Town Hall, Room 2. Jon is making a list of questions that volunteers should ask each homeowner. There is more information on all of the energy programs available to residents at [www.Vitalcommunities.org/energy savings](http://www.Vitalcommunities.org/energy_savings).

Transportation Work Group:

- Mini Park and Ride: Pizza Chef has agreed to host a mini park and ride and Andrew Pearce is a maybe, with others still thinking about the idea. Dartmouth Hitchcock gives preferred parking for carpools. The work group is looking for ideas to reward people for carpooling. Ideas tonight were bumper stickers, gas cards, cash, or a coop card. More ideas are welcome.
- E bike: Local Motion has bought two bikes. There will be training for all who want to borrow the bikes. There is one cargo bike. The loan will be for 5 or 6 days, and the program will probably start in September. The Quechee Library is happy to host. The training will be at the bike store on Crafts Avenue in West Lebanon on March 26 in the afternoon. The bike store has a contract and is responsible for liability insurance.

Building Integrity:

- Lynn contacted SEVCA by email, but they did not respond. Lynn will follow up by phone.
- Window Dressers: One volunteer leader was recruited.
- Net Zero Construction Pilot Program: There are two options for information sheets for contractors to give their customers. They need to choose which one to use. There are forms for pilot project partners to fill out. The three types of partners (architects, developers and contractors) have separate sets of questions.
- Commissioners suggested inviting High Meadows in Lebanon and Haynes and Garthwaite Architects in Norwich to be in the pilot.

Town Energy Coordinator:

- VLITE: The original project idea was to fund the construction of boxes installed around water pipes under mobile homes to protect the pipes. Geoff has talked to COVER and Capstone and found the boxes must be custom built, and thus take a lot of time. He has talked to the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth and Vermont Technical College (VTC) about designing something that could be easily installed and adjustable to meet the needs of any mobile home. Both are looking into whether this would be possible. The big question is whether the project can happen before the next heating season. There was a suggestion to talk to Dale's Mobile Homes and Mike Morris to get their thoughts on a potential design/solution. The question of whether the net zero standard would apply to mobile homes came up.
- Performance Contracting: Geoff will be writing an RFQ to get proposals from companies other than Johnson Controls. He needs to talk to some more department heads before writing the RFQ.
- Community Solar: Vermont Law School (VLS) has a grant to offset the permitting costs for community solar. They want to work with farms to host the solar. Geoff is working with Chuck Wooster. VLS is working with a resident owned community on another community solar project. The solar array on the fire station solar will be shared with the senior housing on Gates Street.
- Public Safety Ventilation: The bids from the RFP were received on 2/27. The ventilation will cover the evidence room, the offices, the holding cells, the interview room, where the breathalyzer tests are done, and the armory. There should be enough money left over to put in heat pumps.
- Bugbee Roof RFP: the RFP went out this week and is due March 17. The work should be completed before June. If the Town's proposed budget passes, work on air sealing and insulating Bugbee will begin in July.
- XL Fleets: XL Fleets can retrofit pickup trucks into hybrids. Public Works is buying a new dump truck, which could be manufactured as a hybrid through XL Fleets. However, it may not be practical for this specific truck, since it will be mostly used to haul an excavator.

Social media: Posts must be sent to Paula. Niki will try to post on Town Facebook and listserv once a week. She would like to use the Vital Communities Energy Saving Outreach Campaign as the first subject to show people low cost projects.

Liaisons: Resilient Hartford (CROH): An email about HUBs was sent to all of HEC. The topic is communities in an emergency. CROH is also thinking about combined heat and power HUBs and skill sharing. Hartland had been looking at micro grids. HEC should check with them for more information.

Kevin Grady is investigating starting a used car dealership for electric vehicles (EV). Green Mountain Power is looking at distributing EVs and connecting to the grid. A commissioner suggested working with a solar company to become a used EV dealership. VLS is still looking into where used EVs go after they are auctioned at the end of their lease period.

Announcement: The Energy Roundtable is Wednesday, March 18 from 5:00-8:00 pm at the Fireside Inn. There will be speakers focusing on home heating issues and options.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Bohi, Clerk