

**DRAFT**

**Hartford Climate Advisory Committee**

**March 10, 2021**

Erik Krause called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm

**Present:** Erik Krauss; Jack Spicer; Courtney Williamson; Matt Osborn; Lucas Gilbert; Rachel Edens; Tracy Yarlot-Davis; Dennis Brown; Ally Tufenkjian.

**Act 92 Compliance:** Erik read the Act 92 compliance agreement.

**Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** Erik asked if there were changes or additions to the agenda to be discussed. Jack said the minutes approval requiring a vote might need to be tabled due to the lack of a quorum of the members present at the meeting for which minutes were taken. No other changes or additions were suggested.

**Introductions & Review of CAC Charge and Milestones:** Erik invited newly elected Selectboard members and the new Town Manager to the meeting, and several were present. Erik began the introductions and all members introduced themselves to guests. All guests also introduced themselves. Rachel noted that she would like to provide the Selectboard with a liaison report.

**Status Updates and Next Steps For:**

- a. **Climate Action Plan development:** Erik wants to make sure the process moving forward is clear with divisible roles of the consultant, committee, and teams. Erik would like the committee to comment on the draft plan and offer feedback. Jack agreed that the committee should continue to take on the responsibility of presenting the plan. Courtney agreed but added that the actual presentation should be provided by someone who is experienced giving these kinds of presentations since the subject matter will be dense, so we shouldn't be afraid to tap someone from the teams or paleBLUEdot. May 12 is the date paleBLUEdot is expecting to review the draft plan with members.
- b. **Municipal carbon neutrality roadmap presentation:** Erik and Ana met with Jack Cushman, who is a wealth of knowledge for the scientific basis of climate change and the needed pace of mitigation measures in minimizing the extent of damage. Erik and Ana agreed that some of Jack Cushman's background could be useful but what we are looking for is someone who can present the nuts and bolts of achieving the actions that will be outlined by the Plan. Erik noted that this will help the selectboard and staff understand where money and resources need to be spent. Ana is going to reach out to Michael Simpson at Antioch to see if he may be able to fill in the gap. Erik began looking at universities to see if there might be one that has taken significant steps towards carbon neutrality goals, and tapping a leader at that university to be the presenter. Jack said that

some cities may be worth looking into even if they don't have as aggressive of goals because they face the same kinds of spending issues.

- c. **Internal and External facing communications and content:** Erik noted that several organizations have reached out asking similar questions. Those organizations include Sustainable Williston, Addison County, Town of Pomfret, City of South Burlington. Erik would like for the committee to have resources to provide these organizations when they reach out. Jack has looked at the webpage for the committee on the Town's website and thinks that our options are fairly limited in design (Charge, About, Resources), but that we could use the webpage as a jumping off point for resources, including an FAQ for other organizations. Erik stated he has already started such an FAQ and will try to polish it up. Jack agreed to write content for the webpage for members to review and edit at the next meeting. Member agreed to develop the webpage first and then the resources. The resources will be uploaded and linked as they are developed. Rachel and Courtney were both thankful for the regular email communications. Rachel noted that she will be bringing a report back to the Selectboard and would like to know what to include. Erik suggested updating folks on where we are and talking about the roadmap. Jack noted that Article 22 passed and now it is on the Selectboard to actually create a Reserve Fund, so this could be a short term action item to bring back to the board. Jack agreed to work with Rachel on drafting a Reserve Fund if she desired.

**Update Committee Charge and Election of Officers:** Erik noted that there is not a term length for members. He brought this up because he was wondering if we should model the charge after what the Energy Commission has for a charge. Erik will propose a revision based on the Energy Committee's charge. Jack will look into whether there is a statutory fallback on length of terms since this is the main concern. Erik noted that we elected officers in April last year and it would make sense to have another election in April if members were interested in taking on different roles.

**Review and Approve Meeting Minutes:** There was not a quorum of members present at this meeting who were also at the meeting on February 23, 2021. Consequently, the committee agreed to revisit this agenda item at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Jack Spicer, Clerk