

APPROVED
Hartford Energy Commission Minutes
April 23, 2020

Present: Martha McDaniel, Erik Krauss, Fred Randall, Molly Smith, Lynn Bohi, Niki Thran, Alan Johnson, Selectboard; Dillon Walsh, technical staff, Geoff Martin, staff

Erik called the meeting to order at 6:37pm by reading the required Act 92 language concerning compliance with open meeting laws.

There were no changes to the agenda.

Minutes: Martha moved the minutes from February 27 be approved as presented. Niki seconded the motion, which passed.

Molly moved and Niki seconded that the March 2 special meeting minutes pass as presented. With one abstention, the motion passed.

Significant Activity Updates:

Climate Advisory Committee: When first formed, the Climate Advisory Committee (CAC) had two charges: to create a resolution on the climate emergency that the Select and School boards could adopt and to write ballot language for the March ballot requiring the municipality to be carbon neutral by 2027. The ballot initiative passed by 65%. Having completed its charge, a new long-term committee was formed to move forward. The new charge is to take action or make recommendations to the Selectboard for the furtherance of the [Joint Resolution](#), make recommendations to the Selectboard regarding the Town requirement to achieve carbon neutrality, and to collaborate with members of, or parallel committees from, the School Board, Town of Hartford, and neighboring towns. The committee will function until the net zero/carbon neutral targets are met. Committee members are Courtney Williamson, Erik Krauss, Alan Johnson, Geoff Martin, and Jack Spicer. HEC members were thanked for continuing this important work.

Energy Coordinator:

- The Public Safety Building (PSB) ventilation system contract has been awarded to Peak Mechanical. The next project will be to install heat pumps to condition the rest of the building not currently served by heat pumps.
- The Bugbee roof contract should be decided next week. Included in next fiscal year's budget is funding for insulation and air sealing. This work will qualify for the deep energy retrofit program.
- Geoff has consulted with Efficiency Vermont (EVT) on both the PSB and Bugbee projects. EVT suggested including controls on the heat pumps and suggested that heat pumps at Bugbee could be ground source. EVT also recommended working with a consultant to design the work scope – Geoff thinks Chris Hebb could be a good choice.

- Wastewater: Both the Quechee and White River plants are participating in EVT's continuous energy improvement (CEI) program. The goal of the program is to lower energy consumption by 5% at both facilities.
- The Wilder Well is on the curtailable load rider, and staff are investigating whether WABA and the WRJ wastewater plant can get on the rider. There would be large savings.
- The Town Manager's electric car, a Leaf, has arrived. A press release will be written soon.
- Geoff has updated Energy Star Portfolio Manager. Having this data should be useful for the performance contracting and for the climate advisory committee.
- Performance contracting: Geoff has written a draft RFQ but needs to check with the Town Manager about the process. He would like to get the CAC's input on this.

Building Integrity:

- Window Dressers: on hold until June.
- Net Zero kick off meeting: on hold, but more businesses are being recruited to join.
- VLITE: hoping to work with the Thayer School of Engineering on prototype of a covering for exposed water pipes. The group is checking with VLITE on the grant process.
- Buyers do not automatically get energy data on homes they are looking at. The group is looking into whether the realty board should require this.

Transportation:

- Ride share campaign along the Route 4 corridor is on hold, but background information is being worked on.
- E bike lending program is on hold. Background information is being collected.

Future Work Group Activity:

Transportation work group will work on a public education campaign about GHG emissions from commuting, potentially using pictures of reduced air pollution as a result of stay at home orders. They will consider including health concerns like asthma and how to prevent the return of pollution. They will consider a webinar or video. One way to help is to not bail out oil companies. They may include some other positive effects of fewer cars on the road, such as the ability to enter Route 5 from the VA Cutoff road in under five minutes.

General ideas:

Push for a Green New Deal. Renewable energy creates jobs. There are benefits to using less.

Collate information on EVs to help encourage adoption. Include information on where grants for electric cars (EV) can be found; make a map of where charging stations are; make list of EV dealers; find out what people don't know about EVs, but need to know. Make this list for EVs and hybrids. What are the environmental effects of internal combustion engine cars, hybrids, and EVs? Helpful information is available at www.pluginAmerica.org , and [Drive Electric Vermont](http://DriveElectricVermont.com).

Create E bike coaches to talk to a rider before, during and after the bike loan. Have an information sheet of how and where to buy an E bike.

Where the COVID recovery funding goes could influence the world's future.

Vital Communities mobile home campaign hopes to resume work in the Fall.

Emily Atkins writes a newsletter called HEATED about how to leverage change and not return to prior activities.

There are educational opportunities to be found from COVID: saving money, environment is cleaner, people can work from home, lower GHG, and HEC can lead the charge to a way forward to change.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Bohi, Clerk