

## Climate Action Meeting May 4, 2022

**Outreach:** Laura has been speaking with Resilient Hartford. They hope to get the letter from us before their next meeting on May 25th. Carolyn suggested that the Climate Advisory Committee be retired due to the lack of a quorum.

**Criteria for granting for preferred status designation for solar arrays:** John said the Planning Committee relied on the judgement of the Hartford Energy Committee HEC to make its recommendation. Jesse reported that HEC stands by the original letter. The open question— How should the town handle these requests in the future. (I.E. a standard checklist for the developer would be helpful for everyone involved would be a useful starting point.

It was proposed that the preferred option is that the HEC and Planning Commission study a project before sending the application to the Selectboard for final approval. John agrees front loading the process is a good idea. Laura raised the issue of cutting trees to enable a solar array site off Christian Street. Jesse explained that HEC was comfortable with the plan because the majority of the site will be preserved for recreational use and 11 acres will be used by the solar array. Jesse explained the difficulty of having a comprehensive policy for this kind of project that doesn't lock out solar and housing. Laura suggested setting up a meeting involving CAST, HEC and the Selectboard to hear from an expert about the relationship between electric rates, solar sites and preferred status.

**Vermont Legislation Update:** Dana reports the legislature is two weeks late delivering the information. Laura suggested that Committee members look at the description of funds that Dana sent out a guide to Federal funding with an eye on finding funds that might apply to Hartford non-profits or committees.