

**DRAFT**  
**Hartford Climate Advisory Committee**  
**May 13, 2020**

**Present:** Erik Krauss, Jack Spicer, Courtney Williamson; Alan Johnson, Selectboard Liaison; Geoff Martin, Energy Coordinator

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

**Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** No additions or changes were made

**Review and Approval of May 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes:** Jack moved to approve the meeting minutes for the May 6, 2020 meeting. Courtney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting Schedule for 2020 Review and Amendment:** Erik put together a meeting schedule for the Town website, and he noticed the planned November meeting would fall on Veteran's Day which the Town observes. Erik suggested an alternative meeting date of November 18, 2020 for the November meeting. Alan stated that he may have to show up late if that is selected as the day for the November meeting. Geoff, Courtney, and Jack stated that they would try to be available to have the meeting on November 18. Jack moved to change the November meeting date to November 18, 2020 at the regular time, 5 pm. Courtney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Erik stated that he will make that change to the schedule and get the schedule posted to the Town website.

**Filling Committee Vacancies:** Courtney stated that she sent out an email to Committee members and liaisons about putting out an advertisement to fill committee vacancies. Courtney wants to avoid people thinking they are not qualified to be on the committee and to put out qualities and expertise that could be useful for the committee. She thinks Karen Deville prompted this discussion when we learned that Karen stated that she didn't think she was qualified. Alan said Karen would be very qualified because of her experience and knowledge with land use issues and because she can connect with people in town. Erik stated that Karen is very talented and diligent and pays close attention to detail. Karen has a homestead where she raises bees and gardens with a lifestyle revolving around having a small footprint evidencing a perspective that would be beneficial. Erik suggested it was good to have folks with a legal background when reviewing ballot initiatives on the ad hoc committee. Erik thought a business background would be good for this group. Jack said there is someone at Cover who wants to get more involved and Geoff said her name is Heidi and he has her email address but she was previously too busy to get involved on a HEC project. Alan asked if she has a background that would translate to this committee, and stated that the committee is mostly made up of folks with building science backgrounds. Geoff thinks forest management/carbon sequestration would be beneficial so the CAC would have someone more knowledgeable about offsets. Erik suggested finding someone who exhibits more radical thinking, and suggested crafting language that shows the CAC needs someone who can think outside of the box. Alan thinks Chris Sodequist meets that definition, whose email Alan sent the members and liaisons. Chris has done this kind of work either for Hanover or Dartmouth. Courtney read his bio on LinkedIn which says he is in Atlanta, but noted that he is a systems thinker which the CAC

needs. Jack suggested Jack Cushman who he presented with. Erik confirmed he is involved with Extinction Rebellion. Erik suggested reaching out to Sarah Wood, who is involved internationally on these issues and lives in Hartland. Courtney will write a blurb and share with the members and liaisons for tweaking. Jack asked if that is okay with open meeting laws. Alan suggested creating a work group of two. Erik stated that Lana put together the open positions posting on the Town website. Geoff asked Lana to repost and was going to wait and see what we came up with as far as language goes. Erik suggested we wait and asked if we could create a work group. Jack volunteered to review Courtney's draft and Alan said to include him and Geoff. Alan said there is a position for appointment on the Selectboard and wants volunteers.

**Liaisons and Networking Discussion:** Erik said we should think about liaisons. Suggested HEC is represented and so is CRO. Alan said he can fill us in on the Conservation Commission and suggested we build a relationship with the Planning Commission, chaired by Bruce Riddle and has John Reid and Toby Diamond. Alan said a Charter Review committee needs to be formed but would make a likely partner and so would Parks and Rec. Geoff suggested Dylan Kriess is a good connection to Parks and Rec. The WRJ design review committee is mostly aesthetics, but Erik said Martha McDaniel is on that committee and is also involved in a three person committee that deals with building efficiency. Alan said the committee may be a good spot for someone on the CAC to join because they send comments and suggestions to developers. Erik suggested that members of the CAC shouldn't spread themselves too thin because the CAC reports directly to the Selectboard and its reports will trickle down. Alan said maybe later as the committee evolves and settles. Erik asked if Courtney would consider becoming a liaison on the Planning Commission. Courtney asked that we think about connecting with the groups in the wider community too and said she will sit in on the next Planning Commission meeting. Erik said the CAC should revisit this topic down the road. Jack suggested connecting with Ana Meija at Vital Communities. Erik will reach out to Ana Meija, Sarah Brock, and Bethany Fleishman from Vital Communities to connect and see if there's room for collaboration.

**RFP Next Steps:** Erik thanked Geoff for sending the Burlington RFP around and said he also circulated the Energy Consultant RFP from Hartford in 2014. Erik suggested doing a work group to have a first draft. Alan is concerned about timeline and said ideally a consultant should be selected by the beginning of the next fiscal year, July 1. Alan suggested requiring applications be submitted by mid-June. Courtney is concerned about the money being allocated. Alan said the CAC should move forward as if the money is available. Courtney suggested doing a round robin where the CAC has a work group and pass to another work group to work on the next week. Alan doesn't know that it would comply with open meeting laws and suggested Geoff should take the lead where he takes the comments from members and folds in staff. Geoff said he will definitely take this on and get it in front of Lori as quickly as possible so he will make a first draft and send it out to members who will send comments directly to Geoff. All members and Geoff were comfortable with this. Erik suggested final version on June 1 with proposals in on June 17. All participants agreed to keep the timeline short. Jack suggested including intermediary timelines as well and others agreed. Geoff stated that he will aim to have a draft to us one week from the day of this meeting, May 20, and committee members will get comments back to him. All agreed to have comments back to Geoff by the 26<sup>th</sup> and meet again on the 29<sup>th</sup> at 5pm to review and finalize.

From there it goes to staff to review, alter, and sign off. Erik suggested having a list of potential vendors together by the next meeting. All agreed on next meeting to review nearly final draft of RFP and potential vendor list as well.

**RFP Content:** Erik asked for suggestions to give to Geoff. Courtney suggested adding a component for community engagement and consider costs in a broad sense, such as job creation. Jack didn't like the graphics in the Burlington RFP but liked the objectives. Erik liked the "no regrets actions" language and wants vendors to look deeply into the impacts of their suggested decisions. Erik said the behavioral changes that we are undergoing now in response to the pandemic show that we are capable of changing our behavior in a way that is beneficial to the climate. Alan thinks the Town should engage industry because they have a major ability to address this problem and identify industries that society is moving away from, such as the car dealership model of business. Alan is also interested in pushing sequestration relating to forestry and agriculture. Erik agrees that the CAC should make sure the vendors are capable of dealing with sequestration related issues. Alan points out that major investment firms are not investing in companies that don't have a climate plan. Courtney wants to make sure the vendor has a broad view of the bottom line; not simply a focus on direct cost savings. Erik wants to focus on the impacts that are also outside of Hartford and the ability of Hartford's model to scale up. Erik said we cannot use all of our wealth to solve our problems, but rather the solution has to be for everyone. All agreed that there should be consideration for creating a sustainable quality of life for residents. Geoff asked for blurbs from all members who have suggestions to be submitted to him by Friday, May 15.