

Climate Action Steering Committee May 18, 2022

Attendees: Dana Clawson, Laura Simon, Molly Smith, John Reid, Jesse Pollard, Ashton Todd, Carolyn Hooper, Lee Michaelides

Revised Minutes Approved: Lee will send them to Dana for posting on the website.

Selectboard Update: Board wanted more documentation of CAST's work. Carolyn suggested it could be as simple as adding another column to the existing Google grid. John suggested grouping broader topics in terms of goals for cutting carbon rather than an accounting for the 107 action items as they exist in the Climate Action Plan.

Solar Generation Cap: Jesse reported that there is no ceiling on the amount of solar that can be installed on town property. There are limitations to solar installation in Hartford because of grid capacity. Jesse showed a map that showed the grid capability on various parts of town. There is no capacity in Quechee, for example, to add more solar. Wilder, by contrast, has 8 megawatts of capacity for solar installations for generation. Molly said that the private installation of solar on homes is limited due to the income levels of the residents and the number of renters. She said working towards increased community solar is a better option to reach our solar goals. Lee reported on the MIT En-Road simulator as an education tool. Jesse suggested advocating using town-owned land on Christian Street for a solar installation using AARPA funds. It would check off a number of tangible action items. Molly volunteered to ask a consultant to brief CAST on the regulations regarding community solar. Jesse said VLS students could eventually be asked to draft an RFP for community solar on town land. Molly said the best option is to invite a VLS lawyer to the next CAST meeting to suggest a roadmap towards building a community solar project.

Outreach to the Commissions: This project is a go. The drafted letter will be sent to the staff liaison to the various boards and commissions. We reviewed steps we all agreed to take on before the next meeting. We each will send a letter to the committees we are liaising with. Dana is going to send us the CAST letter to the committees and commissions.

Informational Webinar: Molly is working towards a webinar on preferred solar sites in Hartford.

Vt Downtown Transportation Fund. John will talk to Matt about this. Fairlee is getting \$100K.

Bill in Vt legislature that would ease up Act 250 requirements for housing to be able to eg increase density. VLCT will have a workshop to discuss this.

EVs: John attended a webinar that considered whether there is a benefit from increasing electric vehicles. Dana wondered whether we could track it through the state because when we get yearly registration update it indicates miles.