

Hartford Energy Commission minutes

May 25, 2023

Present in person: Jesse Pollard (2023) , Lynn Bohi (2024); guests Eric Francis, Richard Otis, Jillian Scannell from Vermont works for Women

Present virtually: Laura Simon (2026), Ashton Todd (2023); guest Tad Montgomery.

Jesse called the meeting to order at 5:08 by calling the roll.

Agenda changes: none

Minutes: Laura moved that the April 27 minutes be approved as presented. Ashton seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Lynn moved and Jesse seconded that the May 11 minutes pass as presented. The motion passed 4-0.

Public Comment: Richard introduced himself. He is an engineer and facility supervisor which involves energy management. HEC and guests introduced themselves.

Coordinators Report:

- Wilder One solar: This 5 MW project off Route 14 has no news.
- Braley Drive solar: a 500 KW possible project, described May 11, asked for a letter of support as a preferred site. HEC wrote this. Dana will have a special meeting with the Planning Commission soon. It was noted that there was a fire on Braley Drive recently.
- Grants: Hartford is receiving a \$75,000 block grant as one of the ten largest municipalities in the state. It could be used for equipment.
- Vital Communities received a DOE grant. One proposal is de-carbonizing transportation.
- Climate Migration Conference: Speakers were academics and demographers. NOA stated that because of climate change and increasing temperatures, that New England would probably get climate migrants. The Upper Valley needs to prepare. It was not mentioned at the conference, but our infrastructure, water, sewer and roads, should be part of the preparation. The Upper Valley is 9000 housing short right now.
- New England municipal sustainable conference: also mentioned climate migration.
- VECAN conference: This is in person this year. It is June 3 from 9 to 1 in Middlebury. There are several speakers and networking possibilities. HEC can carpool.

Trailblazers: Jillian from Vermont Works for Women (VW4W) talked about the upcoming Hartford workshop. It is in August and September at HACTC. It is a seven week free training about construction, plumbing, renewable energy, heat pumps, weatherization and other topics the participants may request. There are four weeks in the classroom and three weeks as an intern at a local company. Recent Trailblazer classes have been “green” and the people enjoyed that aspect. In the future, all classes will be green. VW4W is partnering with Vermont Adult Learning to offer the heat pump training. Students will earn an OSHA 10 certificate. Both the 16

students and internships can come from New Hampshire or Vermont. Jillian passed out a schedule for what is being taught when.

MERP: HEC heard about this grant program in April. There is a \$4000 grant for publicizing energy committee's and their work. One use is to upgrade the website to better inform residents about opportunities to save energy. Laura moved and Jesse seconded that Dana apply for this grant for the website upgrade. The motion passed 4-0.

Energize Upper Valley recap: Is there a plan for a similar event in the future? Vital Communities is planning an event in September for low and moderate income people about energy. HEC could co-sponsor. Is there a way to capture the result of the last event? The solar installers were collecting names of interested people and HEC could ask them how many signed up.

Window Dressers: The location is still in the air, though there is a possibility that should become clear on Monday of next week. There are 300 inserts ordered. Dana and Jeff are calling people to ask if they are still interested.

Jesse asked if Dana should be charging applicants for his time to investigate solar sites. People should think about this.

The meeting adjourned at 6:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi, Clerk

Jesse Pollard 2024, Chair]

Molly Smith Dunn 2025, Vice Chair

Lynn Bohi 2024, Clerk

Ashton Todd 10/5/2023

Laura Simon 2025

Esme Cole 2025