

## Hartford Energy Commission minutes

June 22, 2023

Present in person: Molly S Dunn, Lynn Bohi; guests: Tad Montgomery, Eric Francis, Richard Otis; Dana Clawson, staff

Present Virtually: Esme Cole, Laura Simon, Jesse Pollard; guests Aaron Miller, Debbie New

Molly called the meeting to order at 5:07pm by taking attendance.

Minutes: Tad asked that he be a guest. Molly moved that the May 25 minutes be amended to reflect Tad's request and Jesse seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

Public comment: none

Coordinator's report:

- Sarah from Hartland Energy noted a VT Digger article that mentioned some problems with spray foam which can cause rot. If this happens to anyone we know, please tell Dana.
- 2023 RBES will not go into effect until next year. The contractors asked for more time to get appropriate training on the new requirement they will be asked to meet.
- Vermont Adult Learning class: This training to install heat pumps started June 21. On Tuesday, June 27 will be heat pump training which HEC members can attend.
- Dana took a tour of VERMOD. Ashley, who works there, will be taking the Trailblazers training so she will be better understand home construction techniques.
- Dana spoke at a Vermont maintenance workshop. Parks and Rec received ARPA funds and will be buying E lawnmowers.
- VECAN was a good conference.
- With the \$70,000 grant Hartford received because one of the state's largest 10 municipalities, heat pumps will be installed at the Public Safety building.

Geothermal: Jesse talked to members of the Selectboard, GMEDC, and Anna Gunther from Vital Communities about a feasibility study to develop a geothermal district downtown based on the WABA discharge.

Debbie New is the coordinator of the Vermont Community Alliance which promotes geothermal districts. They have created materials and an EAN team is working on more materials. Their purpose is to support municipalities to create geothermal districts, to find funding, and to implement the projects.

Arron Miller is the Eastern Regional representative from SHARC. He helps municipalities create geothermal districts. One source is wastewater where it produces heated water which is sent to the heat pumps via an underground loop. HEC proposed he come for a site visit. Lebanon has also spoken with him, and Dartmouth is thinking about this to replace the former coal fired

campus loop. Two big focuses are flow and temperature. He will need to know where the sewer connections are so that the shortest connection can be made. Someone from DPW could help with this. 100 gallons per minute are needed. HEC suggested a VA Hospital and hotels along Route 5 and Ballardvale Drive could be another district.

Subcommittees:

Upper Valley Energize: Laura followed up with the solar providers about sign ups. Two answered. One is working with seven homes. She mentioned the Vital Communities energy fair in September.

Window Dressers: This will be held at Damon Hall in Hartland from October 12 to 19. More than 300 inserts have been requested. Measuring teams will start soon. Volunteer possibilities are Rotary members and older Boy Scouts.

CAST: The food forest at the Wilder School has been delayed by the School Board due to lack of maintenance staff. Each Hartford committee was asked to list priorities from CAP. It has been a year and CAST members are now reaching out to check the progress each committee has made.

Recruitment: Molly will be moving at the end of the summer and Ashton is in flux. Molly will resign but would enjoy opportunities to volunteer. The Selectboard has made new policies. One says open positions must be posted for 30 days. People need to apply soon.

Solar site visits: Last month HEC was asked to think about having solar companies that apply for Hartford permits be asked to pay for Dana's work. This work is assessing the site, consulting with Planning Commission, attending Planning Commission meetings two or three times, and connecting with the company about any questions. This year there have been 2 requests. This background work takes approximately four hours, not counting the PC meetings, which can exceed four hours. The fee could be either a flat fee or by the hour and would be paid to the town. While fees are industry standard, no Vermont municipality charges one. Lebanon does charge a fee.

The meeting adjourned at 6:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi, Clerk

July agenda: Aaron Miller site visit, focus on recruiting.

Jesse Pollard 2024, Chair

Ashton Todd 10/5/2023

Molly Smith Dunn 2025, Vice Chair

Laura Simon 2025

Lynn Bohi 2024, Clerk

Esme Cole 2025

