

## Draft Hartford Energy Commission minutes

July 27, 2023

Present in person: Esme Cole, Lynn Bohi, Laura Simon, Jesse Pollard; guests Erik Francis, Tad Montgomery, Kyle Crevy; Dana Clawson, staff

Present Virtually: Molly S Dunn; Aaron Miller SHARC, Debbie New, Vermont Community Alliance, Sarah Kelly, Irving Institute, Dexter Lefavour, Manosh, Richard Otis

Jesse called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

Minutes: Laura moved and Molly seconded that the June minutes pass as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Public comment: none.

### Coordinator's report:

- Trailblazers: As of two weeks ago, there were eight students signed up, which is a full class. There are also another ten more on hold.
- Dana went to a meeting of Upper Valley climate people.
- The flex load heating and cooling program for Town Hall is not working as hoped. The installer worked on it with no results.
- Parks & Rec. department has found electric lawn mowers that will function well for them. They are getting two from ARPA funding.
- Efficiency Vermont will be holding a training for builders about RBES and the changes to the energy code.

Arron Miller from SHARC: He talked about energy transfer from wastewater. The concept is to make hot water for geothermal networks. There are two systems his company uses. The Piranha will serve between 50 and 300 units of housing. It functions similarly to a heat pump. One unit of energy input will generate 3 to 4 units out. The SHARC uses heat from a sewer for a thermal loop to the heat pumps via a geothermal field. There are third party groups that want to buy the units and install them and sell the energy to users.

Dexter Lefavour works for Manosh from Morrisville. He is a civil engineer. New England Consulting Engineers work with municipalities about water, wastewater and geothermal districts. He can do a feasibility study and tailor it to Hartford's budget. The cost is usually about \$10,000 to \$20,000. Sites which have a shallow depth to bedrock are less costly. Usually, the well for geothermal is about 600 feet deep and they use a closed loop. The system can be placed under a parking lot. One well produces six tons of heat. Wells can be dug every 20 feet.

### Grants:

- The Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant for \$75,000 that Hartford is receiving for being one of Vermont's ten largest municipalities is in pre-application phase.
- MERP: Hartford was awarded the first part, which is \$4000 and for part two Dana is asking for stage 2 building audits for DPW and WABA. He also added West Hartford library, Public Safety and the White River Junction Wastewater Facility.

CAP priorities: Clerk will send the list of individual priorities to everyone.

### Subcommittees and announcements:

- Energize UV: Vital Communities is holding an energy resource fair on Saturday, September 23 at LISTEN dining room.
- The Energy Justice clinic at Vermont Law and Graduate School wants to partner with West Fairlee to have a resource fair and has asked Molly to guide them.
- Window Dressers: There are about 300 inserts requested by 30 homes, the measuring teams are currently at work, the volunteer sign up was about to be launched when it all disappeared from the computer.
- Solar: the 500 KW Norwich Solar project on Bradley Drive went before the Planning Commission in June. Sterling Springs, the closest neighbor, asked if residents would be able to see it. The answer is currently thought to be probably not.
- At a White House briefing, it was announced there are fourteen bills to fund green banks.
- The National Drive Electric event will be September 30 and they are looking for volunteers. The event is behind Lebanon City Hall.
- Ashton has now not attended three consecutive meetings. According to HEC bylaws, this means he will no longer be a member of HEC.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi, Clerk

Jesse Pollard 2024, Chair

Molly Smith Dunn 2025, Vice Chair

Lynn Bohi 2024, Clerk

Ashton Todd 10/5/2023- removed as above

Laura Simon 2025

Esme Cole 2025