

CAST Meeting August 16, 2023

Present: John Reid, Planning Commission 2024, Lee Michaelides, Conservation Commission, 2023, Laura Simon, Hartford Energy Commission 2025, Dana Clawson, staff.

Minutes of the June 7, 2023 and July 19, 2023 meeting. No motion to approve minutes due to lack of a quorum.

Dana will send a link to *Delivering a Green New Deal* to CAST membership. Lee said he'll apply to serve on the Energy Commission to help round out the CAST roster. Laura led a recap of the metrics outlined in town's climate action chapter by chapter.

Municipal: Recapped grants for improving buildings, funds for electric mowers, EVs for police cars are not yet manufactured and the eventual transition away from diesel at the DPW.

Waste Management: The plan's goal has been to achieve 100 percent reduction of organic waste. A question raised was that CAST should promote local efforts and their success rates. A second recommendation to include in our annual report would be the idea of having some free dump days for large items such as tires, chairs etc that are often left by the roadside and have increasingly been difficult for volunteers to collect on Green Up day. We'd like to move forward on John's collection Styrofoam project as a way to increase the recycling rate from the current 5 percent to the 20 percent goal. One difficult goal is to reduce the amount of trash produced in town as we are hampered by the lack of any enforcement authority. (Will Maine's experience with an expanded bottle bill work in Vermont? Laura will make the contact.)

Water and Waste Water: Research is currently being done to reduce waste water emissions from the treatment plant. An open question is finding someone in authority about how to eliminate storm runoff from

private buildings into the sewage system. Dana will find out what the baseline is for consumption. What about meeting the goals from flood mitigation. Laura suggested having a regional meeting to discuss options.

There is still work to be done on the goal of upgrading waste water and drainage caused by increased precipitation. Hartford's waste water treatment plan will need an upgrade within a decade. Right now a plan of action is unclear because Hartford doesn't have a wastewater treatment chief.

Chapter by Chapter recap will be continued at September meeting:

Other Business: Norwich Solar presented in to the Planning Commission on the construction of a solar array abutting Sterling Springs. A motion was made to approve was passed. Dana will send the detailed minutes of the discussion before the vote to CAST members.

Next CAST meeting: September 20th, 2023.