

Draft Hartford Energy Commission minutes
August 27, 2020

Present: Niki Thran, Molly Smith, Martha McDaniel, Fred Randall, Erik Krauss, Lynn Bohj; Matt Osborn, staff; Alan Johnson, Selectboard liaison; Ana Mejia, guest; Kevin Grady, guest

Erik volunteered to take minutes until Lynn arrived.

Molly called the meeting to order at 5:03 and read the Act 92 statement.

Agenda: Molly suggested adding "recruitment" and "elect a vice chair" to the agenda. There were no objections.

July meeting minutes: Erik asked about the meaning of "The climate emergency declaration expanded conservation powers and defined electrical fixtures." under the Questions/Comments section. Commissioners were not sure which CED this referred to. Erik suggested tabling the approval of meeting minutes until Lynn could be consulted. There were no objections. Lynn did not remember the reference. Molly moved the minutes pass pending asking the presenters about the statement, Niki seconded. The motion passed. Post meeting: Molly contacted the presenters who asked that the sentence be removed.

FERC research: Fred provided background information pertaining to FERC order 841 and its current status. Fred suggested a research initiative to provide cost benefit analysis and process guidance that could be developed to assist Hartford residents and organizations in leveraging this opportunity to offset upfront costs for renewable energy and storage projects. He suggested that VLS and Tuck School students could be helpful in performing this research and analysis. A conversation about what to do in Hartford and alternate approaches ensued. **Fred will make a list of how the Town can benefit.** One idea was that Hartford could be labeled a Town of the Future, or leading the way to the future.

Significant Activity Updates:

Climate Advisory Committee: The Selectboard authorized release of the freeze of the money set aside for the climate action plan. The RFP is due Monday, August 31. Then they will select a vendor and present to the Selectboard, perhaps on September 22. That depends on timing of conducting interviews. In terms of outreach, they will develop an awareness of the climate action plan and make a list of stakeholders in the region. HEC's role is to attend public meetings. Both groups should have the same goals also. **Molly volunteered to look at vendors.** HEC could look at wording of documents, but this needs a rapid turnaround. **Erik will send a list of possible activities available.**

Energy Savings Project: Ana reminded HEC this is a three-year project, now in year two, to help mobile home owners with energy savings and with access to services. This year's aspects are working with COVER on projects and increase outreach and test strategies. The main goal was to better insulate roofs and skirting. They will collect fuel usage data before and after projects. HEC was trained last year and conducted door knocking at Merrimack Park just prior to COVID outbreak. Ana followed up with other parks with a letter and brochure about how to access services. Springfield also conducted this project by talking to 56 people and assisting twelve. Ana would like to recruit more towns and is thinking Thetford, Norwich and maybe three more. An America Core Vista worker will be involved in this also. Next Steps are: This is a staged process with outreach in the fall. She would like to find contacts in the

parks and is talking with LISTEN and the Haven. She asked HEC to find contacts with churches and foodbanks and park offices.

Building Integrity: Button Up this year is totally virtual. Does Hartford want to sign up? Molly volunteered to head this. HEC's job would be to get the word out on the listserve, via co-ops, churches, libraries, the Haven and LISTEN, etc. September agenda is to update HEC outreach on SharePoint.

Transportation: Vermont Law School starts on Monday, August 31. There is a class that will follow-up with the electric vehicle project HEC heard from in July. Hartford will have the E-bikes in town September 20 to October 10. Erik and Molly volunteered to help Martha. **A virtual signup sheet is needed.**

Social Media: nothing.

Recruitment: Jon Alvin's father said he would be back in this area in October. **Erik has his email and will send it to Molly who will connect** about his continued interest in HEC. Linda Miller is another possibility. **Molly will email her** about her interest level. **Niki will speak to the people she sold her condo to.** Lana can post the opening.

Matt was thanked for his presence and assistance with technology. It is not currently clear who will staff HEC until a new Energy Coordinator is hired.

September: elect a Vice Chair, update outreach on SharePoint, and consider a statement of support about the effect of climate change on minorities. (do we need SB approval?)

The meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohj, clerk
Erik Krauss, temporary clerk