

Draft Hartford Energy Commission Minutes

September 24, 2020

conducted on Microsoft Teams

Present: Molly Smith, Martha McDaniel, Lynn Bohi, Erik Krauss, Fred Randall; Alan Johnson, Selectboard; Matt Osborn, staff; Ashton Todd, guest

Molly called the meeting to order at 5:02 by reading the Act 92 compliance statement,

Agenda changes: move Martha to top of agenda.

Minutes: Erik moved the August 29 minutes pass as presented. Molly seconded. The motion passed.

Statement of support about climate change effects on BIPOC: Alan will check with Selectboard and/or Town Manager if we need their approval of a statement. Fred and Molly will draft language. The draft will be in SharePoint a few days prior to the next HEC meeting. All decisions will be at the October meeting. There was discussion if this is in HEC's charge. HEC may not have a charge, just bylaws.

Ebike lending: Because there is limited access to Town Hall, the project does not currently make sense. HEC will aim for early spring. This will give HEC time for outreach and to learn from Norwich's experience. Marketing should start early March and staffing start near the end of April. Martha will check if HEC can borrow bikes and ride as a group and if this needs to be warned as a quorum.

Vice Chair election: Martha nominated Erik. Molly nominated Fred. Erik declined. Lynn moved that nominations close and Molly seconded. Fred was elected Vice Chair.

Resilient Hartford liaison: Lynn will be liaison until HEC has more members.

Recruitment: Linda Miller still has health issues, but remains interested. Jon Alvin will be at National Guard duty until the spring. The openings were posted in the listserve, with no interest. Molly asked at Vermont Law School, with no luck. Ashton Todd answered the clean transportation survey and is a guest tonight.

Ashton recently moved to Upper Valley where he would like to plant roots. He works remotely in social media for a variety of companies. He sits in on meetings on diverse issues, then promotes on social media. He is interested in HEC.

Molly will follow-up with Ashton. She will re-word the listserve post to make it seem less like science.

Updates:

- Climate Advisory Committee: On September 1, the committee reviewed the 10 proposals for the Climate Action Plan. They conducted interviews and sent a recommendation to the Selectboard. The Selectboard approved the contract. Currently staff is working out some details. The company is Pale Blue Dot. To see the proposal, go to September 22 Selectboard

meeting and find the power point. A climate Action (CA) team is forming, but may keep the current liaisons. The plan has a community engagement focus.

- Building Integrity: Vital Communities Energy Savings Program now includes Norwich, Sharon, Bethel, Thetford, and Hartford. The group meets electronically for an hour on Tuesdays at noon. Molly had volunteered, but has other work meetings. Lynn volunteered to replace Molly. The group is collecting data.
- Button Up: It is an all virtual event this year. HEC can help by spreading the word about opportunities by posting to the listserv. There will be webinars and information. Perhaps HEC can draft a flyer for the HEC webpage.
- Mobile home pipe wrap: HEC proposed a project with UVM to develop a new product. There are four engineering students with different specialties. Capstone and NH Saves created a box with foam that has been used under some homes. It must be custom built. The students are looking at this project for time and costs and will work on a prototype by the end of their school year. The product will be shared with Capstone, SEVCA and a few others to test.
- Transportation: The clean transportation project at Vermont Law School continues with three students. There is one student working on the ordinances who will report out proposals. The other students will produce a booklet of data. There will be sections on FAQ, maps of charging stations, and EV dealerships. They will have two products: one for Hartford and the other a template that other towns can use with their own data.
- Drive Electric is totally virtual. See the Drive Electric Vermont website.
- Energy Coordinator: Lori says Hartford has access to some of Geoff's time. Currently he is working on closing out projects he started. The job has not yet been posted. It may end up being part time. There will be more information after he budget is settled.

October Agenda: BIOPOC message, the energy savings program, Molly will ask Linda and Jon if they can volunteer, and can HEC create its own facebook page.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi, clerk