

Draft Hartford Energy Commission minutes

October 26, 2023

Present in person: Essme Cole, Lynn Bohi; guests: Eric Francis, Tad Montgomery; Dana Clawson, staff

Present virtually: Laura Simon, Sarah Kelly, Jesse Pollard; guest: Nadim Kassir

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

Minutes: Esme moved the September minutes be accepted as presented. Laura seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Public comments: Has the dam tour happened? No. Scheduling has been a problem. Can Lebanon attend? Yes. Dam tour has the capacity for 10 people, we can split 5 from each town.

Coordinator's report:

- Window Dressers: completed 201 inserts and re-wrapped some from Norwich.
- Emergency Services mechanic went to the EV training in Burlington. This is class one of four and attendees should be able to pass an ASE certification exam at the end. Vermont Clean Cities Coalition paid for some of the cost.
- Flexible Load Management program: GMP will pay the town for every KW not used during a peak event and will be able to alert Town when grid is expected to need a large amount of electricity. The Town then preheats or cools the building prior to the peak event. This has been talked about for many years. Hartford now has a new contractor and will be able to have better control of the system.
- Building code training: The RBES training was this week and was good. Currently, some wood being used is not native and has problems with moisture control in this climate. Seven builders participated.
- Dartmouth event on climate: Dana and Tad and others presented about the energy transition.
- Irving Institute: The building has an art installation about architecture on the third floor.

REV conference: Sarah and Esme attended.

- Sarah heard about residential thermal heating, mixed housing, heat pumps myths (they do not need back up source), a geothermal event; and an energy digest paper on heat pumps.
- Esme went to a "hot topics" about energy education and equality and the need to use visuals, the VEEP program has topics for kids and adults in NH and Vermont and says HEC could take advantage of this, and a geothermal talk had a packed room of enthusiastic people.

Legislative update:

- Climate Caucus needs to think more about geothermal. Debbie New said HEC could contact her at any time.
- Wind can be expanded but there are concerns about noise and building codes. There is a legislative summer study committee working in semi private. They are also working on RES bill. No policy ideas have been discussed.
- Esme would like the PUC to increase the cap on solar for Towns.

Trunk or Treat: volunteers ae Lynn, Esme, Dana, Erik and maybe Tad. Dana will bring either the Town EV or an E mower.

Elections in November: Jesse can stay on as chair, Esme is thinking about Vice chair, and Lynn can continue as Clerk. There was no discussion of liaisons.

Laura sees a need: This would be educating people about heat pumps and solar. Other energy topics could be addressed. The Energy Justice does this sort of thing. Sarah can help Laura organize this. Maybe some Dartmouth students can prepare some materials. VEEP could be asked about speaking. Tad has held Energy lunch hours once a month in Lebanon. Perhaps an energy café once a month for questions and answers could be organized. Vital Communities should be asked if they would like to participate.

Announcements:

Vermont Treasurer is holding public sessions to hear ideas from people about what to use Climate Infrastructure funds on. There are two public sessions and comments online until November 30.

VPIRG has a meeting in Hartford Town Hall on Monday, October 30 at 6:00pm in room 2 about making big oil pay for their pollution. It will suggest a one time fee on oil corporations to pay for climate projects locally.

The meeting adjourned at 6:04pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi, Clerk

Jesse Pollard, 2024 Chair

Lynn Bohi 2024, Clerk

Laura Simon 2025

Esme Cole 2025

Sarah Kelly 2026