

Draft Hartford Energy Commission Minutes

December 17, 2020 via Microsoft Teams

Present: Molly Smith, Martha McDaniel, Fred Randall, Erik Krauss, Lynn Bohi, Ashton Todd; Emma Behrens, Selectboard; Matt Osborn, Staff

Molly called the meeting to order at 5:03pm by reading the Act 92 statement.

Minutes: Martha moved the November minutes pass as presented. Erik seconded and the minutes passed.

Calendar: The 2021 dates were presented as the 4th Thursday except for November and December, which are the 3rd Thursday. Martha moved and Lynn seconded the proposed calendar pass as presented. The motion passed.

VECAN: These who attended session described them. They will write them and put on SharePoint.

- Efficiency and weatherization: Hartford has done or is working on most of the programs presented.
- Transportation: Cash 4 Clunkers is being done in Barre. It is called Mileage Smart. The program buys gas guzzlers and gives cash to help buy an used electric car. Micro transit on demand was also discussed.
- Outreach or how to community organize in COVID: They suggested not to they to reach the general public, but to target specific groups. They suggested trying to find what resonates with other people.

BIPOC and climate statement: General discussion on the newest version: shorter is good; first and second paragraphs are good; the 3rd was questioned, post 1 and 2 on HEC page and 3 on both HEC page and front page; make it living document. Molly moved and Ashton seconded that HEC approve the statement, contingent to Fred's agreement that it be a living document and after his concurrence, take it to the Selectboard. After their consent, post it to the HEC page and the Hartford page. The motion passed. Part of the future discussion should include all who are challenged by energy costs.

Updates:

- CAC: The study language is drafted; the team of 22 is well formed representing many towns and several committees and areas of expertise. The GHG inventory is collecting much data. The whole team will meet sometime between January 7 and 14 to construct a vision and layout the work. They think there will be a draft plan by May. They are looking into a CAC reserve fund to be set up. If the plan is approved in June by the Selectboard, they would like to also establish the reserve fund to have some seed money to accompany the grants they will be seeking. It was noted the Global Warming Solutions Act set up a Climate Council and suggested that the CAC work with the Council, especially in terms of funding. Hypertherm also has grants.

- **Building Integrity:** The mobile home project is plugging along and 20 Hartford surveys have been returned. The state of the mobile home skirting project was questioned. This is a COVER project. There is a regional group meeting about adopting stretch code. Geoff is writing language to include in zoning regulations. It was suggested Geoff talk to Jenny Carter from VLS, who has been working on zoning regulations. A question about whether to adopt stretch code or Net Zero (NZ) was not resolved. Discussion while Geoff worked here left the subcommittee wondering how to proceed. A meeting with Joanne and Lori after Geoff has drafted language was suggested. There have been no NZ permits requested from Joanne.
- **Transportation:** For the E-bike lending program, Hartford is scheduled for April. It costs \$2500 to operate the program, for transporting bikes, insurance, and repairs. Several towns are donating \$300.00. Molly will consult with Lori when they next talk. People are needed to coach customers and staff demo days. Can we coordinate with local cycling groups? They need to be Vermonters for the program. Bikes must be stored inside and must be ridden away from the lending site. All members on the call said they will volunteer. Discussion about where to stage the program ensued, with no resolution. The VLS program will continue in the spring semester. They would like to have a local place to buy used EVs. People are talking to car dealers about this.

HEC Herald: HEC has a newsletter page on our page, where this can appear. Molly will write with subcommittee help. Molly will let Ashton know when she has posted a new newsletter. Ashton will post the announcement to the listserv. Erik moved and Ashton seconded to approve the content of the current Herald, and posting it to the webpage. It is understood the format may change some. The motion passed.

The energy chapter review was postponed to the January meeting.

Ashton: Discuss Advance Transit (AT) is helpful, but takes a long time, as much as four times the time it takes to drive. Adding routes takes much planning, more busses and drivers. AT has a five year planning process. Members will review the plan. Matt will send plan.

Welcome to Emma, new Selectboard liaison: It may be a temporary assignment because another new member Rachael would like to be HEC liaison.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi. Clerk