

Hartford Energy Commission minutes
January 27, 2022

Present in person: Molly Smith, Lynn Bohi; Dana Clawson, staff

Present virtually: Ashton Todd; Dan Fraser, Selectboard; guests Anna Gunther, Meg McLaurey, Cici Wendling

Molly called the meeting to order at 5:04pm by reading the hybrid meeting script, even though there is no quorum.

Guests were welcomed: Cici is a Hartford High student, Meg is a Hanover High student who worked on the Climate Action Plan, and Anna works at Vital Communities concentrating on Energy and Transportation. Anna would like to be a volunteer.

Participation in HEC: Our bylaws state that members are Hartford residents. Dana and Lynn looked at the Charter which does not mention member qualification. To change HEC bylaws, the change needs to be written and submitted to the Selectboard. Discussion followed: sometimes there is a problem with non-residents making policy however HEC does not often make policy; it could say majority should be residents, and it could say five residents and others who have a connection to Hartford. The discussion will continue in February with a vote.

Drive Electric event: Some Upper Valley towns are planning an Earth Day event about Electric Vehicles (EV). Does Hartford want to participate? Yes. HEC will need some ideas. Ideas thus far are show and tell and parade with singers. The EV guide should be ready by April.

Subcommittee reports:

- Building Integrity and Energy Efficiency: Window Dressers: there are four possible locations, the subcommittee has a timetable, and the two chairs are meeting with Jessica from WD on Monday to discuss first steps.
- Transportation: In planning stages are the EV event in April and the EV guide should be ready soon.
- Energy and Land Use: Jesse is not here. The Climate Action Steering Team (CAST) is working on some of this too. They are looking at zoning regulations, with perhaps requiring car charging stations for large housing developments. Eight towns are applying for a grant to revise their zoning regulations to make building efficient houses easier. Vermont adopted a new building code in September 2020 which requires a blower door test and duct tests. Builders are having problems finding someone to do a blower door test when the builder is ready. Currently, blower door tests are taking up to six months to schedule. Only a few towns have adopted Stretch Code, which require new buildings to be more energy efficient. Hartford is not a Stretch Code Town. The new Stretch Code requires new construction to be EV ready.

HEC Herald: February is Black History month and contains Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day. Molly will write a longer Window Dresser piece. Ashton will work on a ski industry carbon footprint article. Lynn will try to make a list of BIPOC leaders in science fields.

General discussion: HEC could ask the Building Trades class if they want to help with Window Dressers. What are the requirements to perform a blower door test? BPI certification. Is there BPI training at HACTC or VTC? Could CAST pay the fee for certification? Workforce Development has money in the Governor's proposed budget and the Legislature seems likely to agree. Can we ask for State funding for BPI training. Dana is having a meeting with builders during the week of January 31 to February 4. He will discuss this with them and ask if they are willing to pay for training if the recipients promise a set number of free blower door tests.

The meeting disbanded at 5:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohj, Clerk

Feb agenda: bylaws, EV event in April, WD, EV guide, zoning ordinances and net zero, blower door tests