

Hartford Energy Commission minutes and notes

August 24, 2023

Present in person: Jesse Pollard, Lynn Bohi; Eric Fransis, Kyle Crevy, Molly S Dunn, Richard Otis, Dana Clawson, staff

Present virtually: Laura Simon, Esme Cole; Karl Kemnitzer Hartland Energy Committee, Sarah Kelly Irving Institute, Henry Branagan Lebanon Energy Advisory Committee, Lee Michaelides CAST

There was no quorum: July minutes postponed

Coordinator's report:

- The new Town Manager will start October 2
- MERP grant: will be used for building assessment and audits. Two Rivers Ottauquechee Planning Commission will hire the contractors.
- Parks and Rec: The selectboard approved payment from ARPA money to buy the two electric lawn mowers
- Wastewater solar: the reporting system for the solar panels went down, thus Hartford did not get the credits from Green Mountain Power. It is being corrected.
- Bugbee: the feasibility study found there is inadequate (AKA missing) air barrier in the attic
- VRCD meeting: Green Mountain power reported they have three nomad batteries which can be moved in when power fails.

5:15 quorum reached

Minutes: Laura moved and Jesse seconded that the July minutes be accepted as presented. Motion passed 4-0.

Agenda changes: move one article earlier.

Public Comment: Karl has sent Lynn, Laura and Dana a piece about a probable Route 5 bike lane. Vermont Transportation Agency will work with the several RPCs involved. There will be a survey to watch for.

Climate Action Reserve Fund: To spend money from the fund, HEC and the Selectboard must vote to approve the expense. Parks and Rec would like all their tools to be electric. They would like to buy from a limited number of brands so that the batteries can be swapped. Dana would like HEC to vote in September to approve using up to \$15,000 for this.

EV car event in Lebanon: P&R will have our electric mower there.

The meeting adjourned at 5:28 after losing quorum. Notes continue.

Brale Drive solar: This 500KW array has been discussed at several Planning Commission meetings. The neighbors had questions about the view and the extent of trees which might be cut. At the most recent meeting on August 9, it was noted that the elevations are such that the array will not be seen from Sterling Springs and the extent of the tree cut is smaller than presumed. Several neighbors stood up to show support for the project and the PC voted to approve the site as a preferred site. HEC needs to revisit the VLGS template to address trees and RECs.

District Heating: Three HEC members and several guests toured the WRJ wastewater treatment plant to investigate if heat capture is possible. There has been no word from contractor about the cost. A decarbonization group is looking into how to change charters and legislation which might be necessary to form municipal geothermal heating districts.

Tour: HEC may set up a tour of Great River Hydro's Wilder dam. It needs to be ten or fewer people and they ask that Senator Becca White attend.

Subcommittees:

- Window Dressers: 350 inserts have been requested. Measuring is about 60% finished. Norwich/Hanover WD has offered to accommodate some inserts if needed. The volunteer sign up is very close to finished, just a few small tweaks. The U Haul is reserved to move the equipment.
- CAST: met last week to review progress and next projects.

Recruiting: There are now three openings. There are two applications submitted. Kyle will file his application tonight.

End of notes

Lynn Bohi, Clerk

Jesse Pollard, 2024 Chair

Lynn Bohi 2024, Clerk

Laura Simon 2025

Esme Cole 2025