

CAST Minutes Nov 15, 2023

Present: John Reid, Lee Michaelides, Jesse Pollard, Jen Durgin, (Newly approved member); Dana Clawson, Staff.

Public: Nadim Kassir. Adam Whelchel

Mr. Kassir expressed an interest in joining or working with the committee.

October minutes will be voted for approval at the December meeting.

Admin and Updates:

Dana will appear before the Selectboard in the spring to present a formal committee charge and bylaws.

Adam Whelchel, Director of Science for the Nature Conservancy runs the community resilience program. He wanted to know about Hartford's interest in joining the program. This is a free program that takes about 6-8 weeks to complete. The idea is to get more people involved with hazard mitigation and compile a list of projects for the town to complete.

John says Hartford needs to figure out who are the parties in Town that needed to be involved because the Town already has a hazard mitigation plan and it isn't certain who is responsible for the plan's review and updates. Dana cited a need for town officials and residents to know what resources are available. Adam cited the need to have an updated mitigation plan updated every five years to qualify for FEMA funds in the event of a disaster.

Purchase of electric mowers, blowers, weed-whackers for Parks and Rec. Jen moved that CAST approve up to \$5,000 from the Climate Action Fund to buy the new machines. Motion passed with a unanimous vote,

Jen updated CAST on the recycling of plastic film at the high school. Lebanon will recycle it at the landfill.

John was contacted about forming a coalition of Vermont towns to purchase a machine to compress foam. Total cost could be \$75,000. He will participate in a multi-town discussion on the idea. John reported that there is a financial incentive to participate as the towns are paid for the processed foam by a firm in New Jersey. The money details have yet to be examined.

Town Hall flexible load management program has been installed. Soon it will be connected to GMP and participate with their program.

Energy commission got a \$5,000 outreach grant. Level 2 audits have been approved for the DPW building and ice rink.

The Efficiency Vermont energy code training session will be posted on the website under the energy commission and planning commission pages.

Town mechanic has been sent out for EV training. He can be certified to work on EV's as early as next year if he completes all four classes.

Tesla battery walls will be installed at the Bugbee Center. West Hartford Library battery installation still waiting for approval.

Lee reported that the Hartford Conservation Commission is thinking about holding a public event in February where committees working in the conservation, climate and ecology space might network and reach out to the public. The HCC is asking to see which groups are interested in participating. CAST thought it was a good idea and awaits more details before actually making a decision.

Nadim Kassir asked if Vermont funds the transition from gas to electric stoves. Dana said it does not.

Next Meeting is December 20th at 5:00 PM