

CAST Meeting Minutes December 20, 2023

Present: John Reid, Laura Simon, Lee Michaelides, Jen Durgin; Dana Clawson, Staff

Public: Nadim Kassir

Approved Minutes from the October/ November meeting were approved.

Coordinator Report: Dana visited a geo-thermal system in South Burlington. It was designed by the same firm that will be doing local courthouse project and Hartford will receive the results of the test well study for the court house. The rebuilt downtown parking lot has been wired for 9 charges. Dana will submit a grant request to the state for 7 chargers. Still waiting to hear about building energy grants. Dana said we have the option to partner with grant writers and grant management because 10 percent of a successful federal grant can be added to administrative overhead. Dana reported that federal tax credits for the purchase of EVs will become a point-of-sale discount after Jan 1. (Currently the buyer has to file a tax return for the rebate.)

Conservation Commission “Meet and Greet” at the Bugbee Center: John will respond to Matt about the upcoming program.

Nature Conservancy Outreach: Dana will send a letter to the SB to get approval to start working with the Nature Conservancy on an climate change analyses. Dana will send us a link to the plan that Bristol wrote with the organization. *(Note from Lee: For those of us who know nothing about such plans here’s a link to a paper the group wrote that explains the basic concepts of its work. https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/TNC_NBS_Guidebook-04-30-2021_LR.pdf)* Information about energy codes and training should be added the planning and building webpages. Laura added that the Energy Committee page would be a good landing place for that info as well.

Planning Commission: John spoke about the new Northern Stage housing campus downtown near the theater in terms of conduit for EV charging stations. John suggested that it may make sense to have zoning requirements for EV chargers when large apartment complexes are being designed. Dana said such a discussion will take place with zoning in January.

Bylaws: John suggested expanding membership criteria to include workers in town, business owners and property owners. Lee suggested that applicants should attend a meeting before formally applying. Dana will look into ideas for screening applicants for all town committees and CAST could work with that language. Group cited use of the term “ex-officio” as being confusing. Suggested dropping the reference to Robert’s Rules of Order.

Other Business: Laura said the Energy Commission is hosting a conference on April 6. She is looking for a heat pump installer. Lee will contact someone he knows and forward info to Laura.

