

Hartford Energy Commission minutes

January 25, 2024

Present in person: Jesse Pollard, Laura Simon, Richard Otis, Lynn Bohi; guest Eric Francis; Dana Clawson, Staff Liaison

Present virtually: Catlin Doak, Sydney Wu, Dartmouth Energy Justice, Esme Cole at 5:15.

Jesse called the meeting to order at 5:10pm

No public comment

Minutes: Laura moved the December minutes be accepted as presented and Richard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Wilder Dam tour: several people could not attend and would like for another tour be organized. The two Dartmouth students would like to attend as well as Lebanon and Hartford people. Probably will be scheduled for a Wednesday.

Coordinator's report:

- Flexible Load Management: A GMP program for users to lower their load during peak hours and get a bill reduction. It is in place on the second floor, however, it has not saved as much as expected because Dana turns the heat down at 4:00pm. The first floor is still not on the program. Also, VLCT insurance paid for the new condenser.
- Tesla battery wall: These are for Bugbee Center and West Hartford library. We now have the funding for both locations.
- Library grant: Dana is applying for solar panels and heat pumps for the West Hartford library.
- EV supply grant: This is for seven EV chargers each of which have two ports, at the S. Main Street parking lot. The \$7,000 per charger grant was turned in two weeks ago.
- V Trans charger: VTrans wants to install a level 3 charger in each Town within one mile of the Interstate. We need an appropriate site.
- MERP grant: The audits for WABA and DPW have a contractor: DuBois and King. The timeframe is not set, nor is the funding for implementing the forthcoming work scope.
- Heat pumps: Public Safety will be getting heat pumps. The grant will be done soon.
- Climate Action: Dana was to present to the Selectboard this week. However, the meeting was very long and he was postponed,
- State Treasurer in Town: Early this week, the treasurer was in Town to talk about possible funding for projects. There is money for Climate actions which we should access. There are several options.
- Nature Conservancy: They were in Lebanon to conduct a climate analysis. They looked at strengths and threats and will author a report. Hartford should do this also, since the Hazzard Mitigation Plan required by FEMA is due at the end of this year.
- February date: Dana will be on vacation the fourth week. We will meet on February 15.

Energy Workshop:

Dartmouth students will make posters.

Presenters are lined up for two workshops:

Morning session from 10-12 about weatherizing with COVER and VEEP.

Lunch with experts- perhaps use MERP funds to buy food

Afternoon session from 1-3 about electrifying heat and solar with VEEP and Energy Builders

Each workshop can hold 20 people.

Help is needed with child care- ask Vital Communities- setting up tables at Town Hall

Thermal Energy District: David Briggs is invested and has spoken twice to the Selectboard. We are waiting for the results of the Courthouse feasibility study. The bill is in the Senate and they need to work on it. Debbie New has created a brochure. In the IRA, there may be 40% funding for municipalities. Talk to Tad about the IRA details. January 29th there is a webinar about the geothermal bill and statewide policies. In February there will be a webinar toolkit for Towns.

Brainstorming about possibilities for thermal districts:

- Ask public to sign up to pay for private developer
- Novo Nordisk company may be able to help with funding- they like to help non-profit organizations. Perhaps Hartford Development Corps may be the funnel.
- Grants for feasibility study or maybe Hypertherm
- Maybe start at Courthouse and end at Ratcliff Park. Use Ratcliff for the bore holes
- Battery storage at former Telephone Building basement
- Debby New wants to know why projects are having trouble. Send information to Jared .

The meeting adjourned at 6:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Bohi, Clerk

February meeting Feb 15

Jesse Pollard, Chair 12/13/2024

Lynn Bohi, Clerk 9/20/2024

Esme Cole 10/31/2025

Laura Simon 12/26/2025

Sarah Kelly 9/4/2026

Richard Otis 1/9/2027