

Hartford Energy Commission minutes

May 23, 2024

Present in person: Laura Simon, Jesse Pollard, Lynn Bohi, Richard Otis (5:23) , Esme Cole (5:29): guests: Gwen Stanley, Tad Montgomery, Eric Francis, Selectboard liaison Ida Griesmer; Dana Clawson, staff

Present virtually: Sarah Kelly, Esme Cole (temporarily); Sally Bellew, Pranv Kalamadkar

Jesse called the meeting to order at 5:06pm.

Public comment: Gwen, from Concepts NREC, proposed HEC and Concepts NREC joining forces on a federal application to use organic waste streams and convert it to energy. The applicant must be a municipality or a non-profit. The grant would be for \$17.5 million. Phase one would be \$500,000 to \$750,000. The project would convert trash and compost via plasma gasification. It is unknown if there are air quality implications. **A meeting poll will be sent to find a date. Meeting may be 2 hours.** Gwen will send documents to us.

Sally is here to listen and find out about HEC projects.

Pranav is from Dartmouth and also listening to see how he can be involved.

Minutes: March Laura moved and Sarah seconded that the March minutes pass as presented. The vote was unanimous. April Richard moved and Laura seconded that the minutes pass as presented, The motion passed unanimously.

Coordinator's Report:

- Curb your car: A Vital Communities event, Dana participated. It was not very well attended. Perhaps HEC should partner with them next year and do more publicity.
- Green Up Day: Matt Osborn and Dana worked together to pick up large items prior to Saturday. They wondered if Hartford should have an amnesty day at the transfer station to avoid having so many items left in places that are not appropriate.
- Dana talked to the Planning Commission about the changes to building codes. Both RBES and CBES were changed this year. The codes are now stricter and should make a difference. They also are meant to encourage and help contractors be more efficient.
- West Hartford Library: People came last week to install the Tesla Powerwall. They decided to install it outside. The Hartford Fire Marshall came to help, and said they need electric and planning permits. The Fire Marshall was very helpful. The hope is to be able to install in a couple of weeks
- Town Hall heat pump system went down recently. There were some copper shavings that had worked their way into a small, but important valve.

Plans: Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission is updating the regional plan. Our town plan, especially for HEC the energy chapter, needs to stay in compliance with TRORC plan. Members should look at the TRORC plan and make comments to Dana. Dana will send members the plan. **HEC will discuss this at the special meeting.** Check information about preferred solar

sites in both plans. Also “what is a forest” is a question. VNRC may know other towns which have defined forests. Also EPA tools may have a definition.

Block Party: June 19 5-8pm. In Lyman Point Park. VEEP is coming. They will bring an exhibit either about car exhaust or peddling a bike to create power. They would like to be paid \$200, which is in HEC budget.

Cartoon School: They put out a call to recent graduates and one, named Michael, would like to work with HEC to create a graphic for HEC to use. The pay would be \$500. HEC needs to define what we want and appoint a single contact person. HEC also needs to define a timeframe. The subcommittee remains Jesse, Sarah, Lynn, Laura(?), and adds Esme. Laura moved and Richard seconded to pay the artist an amount, not to exceed \$500 for art for HEC publicity. Motion passed unanimously.

Updates:

- The PUC bill which has green house gas language passed and was signed into law
- The RES bill will probably be vetoed (renewable Energy Standard)
- REV will have an update on bills next week
- VECAN is June 1 in South Royalton. Register at website to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 6:06pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Bohi, Clerk

Jesse Pollard 2024

LynnBohi 2024

Laura Simon 2025

Esme Cole 2025

Sarah Kelly 2026

Richard Otis 2026