

Hartford Energy Commission minutes

July 25, 2024

Present in person: Jesse Pollard, Sarah Kelly, Lynn Bohi, Richard Otis (5:52); Dana Clawson, staff; Erik Francis, Tad Montgomery guests.

Present virtually: Esme Cole (5:22)

Jesse called the meeting to order at 5:07. There was no quorum. What follows are notes:

Coordinators; report:

- Public Safety heat pumps: the former plan for these had three rooms still using the boiler. The new plan has all rooms covered.
- Styrofoam recycling: CAST and the Rotary are planning this at Mascoma Bank from 9:00 to 11:00 on Saturday August 24th (September 7th-rain date).
- Vermont Adult Learning training for weatherization and heat pump installation is going well. 20 people signed up. But class size is 12, so there is a waiting list.
- Trailblazers will hold trainings next summer. We do not have to raise funds for this.
- Ethan Hatch from U.S. Senator Bernie Saunders office and Dana talked about FERC and Wilder Dam relicensing. They also discussed using congressionally directed funds for geothermal work and for WABA work.
- Erik Smeden is creating a map of landslide areas caused by flooding. He will discuss this with other departments.
- Nature Conservancy project: This is about community resilience. Adam Welch will lead the discussion groups about strengths, weaknesses, and more. There is a team who will give Adam an overview and Adam will read Hartford documents about climate.

5:22pm Esme joined and we have quorum. Jesse convened the meeting.

Minutes: June special meeting: Jesse read the official language concerning the concepts of the potential NREC project. Sarah moved and Lynn seconded that the minutes be amended to add the language read, The motion passed unanimously. June regular meeting: Sarah moved and Esme seconded the June minutes pass as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

VCRD: The Vermont Council on Rural Development is holding a day long leadership training on August 6. Contact Dana to register before Tuesday, July 30.

Administrative:

- Communication meeting: Can we meet next week on Tuesday, July 30? Jesse and Lynn will discuss content at 5:00pm at Town Hall. The Cartoon School has found a person to do the art work. Sarah will be the contact person for the Cartoon School person. Another meeting for visual work was set for Wednesday, August 7 at 5:00pm at Town Hall. Sarah will attend.
- Block Party: has been re-scheduled for October 18. Details to follow.
- Substation tour: Jesse is talking with Green Mountain Power about a tour. No date is set.
- Selectboard Meeting presentation: September 17 HEC, CAST. And CAP will present information about activities and work. This is to help inform SB prior to budget planning.

- The Selectboard passed a motion saying committee members may request a \$50.00 stipend per meeting up to two meetings per month. See Paula Nulty to request.
- District heat: The Clean Energy Program will provide Hartford with 40 to 60 hours technical assistance to determine how much space there is downtown and how much heat would be needed for that space. The Northern Stage housing being built will be carbon free with heat pumps. VLCT has some information about direct pay. It could give a ballpark cost. Efficiency Vermont will meet with Dana to see if they can play a role in geothermal.
- Powerwall at Bugbee: Given that it is a cooling and warming center, having a battery makes sense. Grant money is needed, unless CAST money is used. It would be \$5500 for a ten year lease on the battery, which is paid all up front. Sarah moved and Jesse seconded that HEC approve payment of \$5500 for a Bugbee Powerwall. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi, Clerk

Jesse Pollard 12/13/ 2024

Lynn Bohi 9/20/2024

Laura Simon 2025

Esme Cole 2025

Sarah Kelly 2026

Richard Otis 2026