

Hartford Energy Commission minutes

September 26, 2024

Present in person: Jesse Pollard, Esme Cole, Lynn Bohi, Sarah Kelly, Richard Otis (5:20); Dana Clawson, staff: guests JD Hawks, Erik Francis, Nick Maura

Present virtually: Laura Simon; guest Jordan Rodgers from Dartmouth

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

Public comment: Nick works in WRJ and came to hear what HEC's about.

Minutes: Esme moved the August minutes be approved as presented and Laura seconded. It passed unanimously.

JD Hawks is the new Hartford public engagement staff person. HEC would like his help with the handout for the public to see about HEC's work and to bring our website section up to date. He has seen the notes Jesse and Lynn have been working on which still is incomplete. HEC would like there to be an HEC section and a CAST section on the website. The HEC work with Vermont Law and Graduate School should be added along with HEC's work with University of New Hampshire and Oak ridge National Lab. JD asked what is HEC looking for. An update monthly. For a tri-fold to be ready for the Block Party October 18. The Cartoon College student working on the tri-fold will illustrate each section. Rebate information needs to be added.

Stormwater: West Hartford should be informed when the Dartmouth students will be working there and walking around.

Coordinator's Report:

- Level 3 chargers: the application went in Monday. VTrans choose which towns may apply. Hartford's chargers would go to S. Main St. parking lot across from Gate-Brigga and Hotel Coolidge. The decision will be made in mid October. The grant will cover the cost, which is approximately \$ 750,000 is broken down 80% by VTrans and 20% the vendor and 0% by Hartford. There would be at least two chargers both having two ports for a TOTAL OF four ports. The vendor will pay Hartford to lease the land.
- MERP audits are done. There is half a million dollar grants going to towns with high energy burdened residents. The cost of work on the ice rink is unknown. An architect will be hired to design future changes to the building. For the Public Safety building, the RFP will go out this week.
- If a HEC member wants to be paid for attending meetings, please file paperwork with Paula.
- REV conference is October 16 and 17. If members would like to attend, there is funding for conferences.
- State Treasurer, Mike Pieciak, is holding a climate finance roundtable on October 19. The topic is how to find climate related funding.
- Vermont Adult Learning is holding a weatherization training at the end of October.
- HEC should meet with the Tree Board about native trees and especially floodplain issues

- HEC will need to update Chapter 10 of the Town Plan in either 2025 or 2026.

Updates:

HEC members had a table at a recent meeting at a Dartmouth event to promote Window Dressers.

David Briggs talked to Hartford Historical Society and others about Hotel Coolidge and future plans.

Efficiency Vermont has a person to connect with about geothermal

District heat: Oak Ridge Labs will do load calculations for three buildings. Gates-Briggs building will need 64 wells which are 300 feet deep and 20 feet apart. Buildings which have been improved should use less energy. It was suggested to ask Dartmouth how much of the geothermal work they are doing is paying to improve buildings and how much will go to the geothermal system. It was noted that the land in the triangle between the railroads in WRJ is 300 feet and asked how many wells could be drilled there.

Window Dressers: this is October 3-9. Of the 235 slots needed to be filled, there are 105 filled now. The early days are mostly filled, but the end days are very open. We may get volunteers from the tabling at Dartmouth. Hypertherm was asked if they have anyone signed up. Novo Nordisk also has a volunteer program.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi, clerk

Jesse Pollard Dec. 2024

Esme Cole 2025

Laura Simon 2025

Sarah Kelly 2026

Richard Otis 2026

Lynn Bohi 2027

