

Draft Hartford Energy Commission minutes

March 26, 2025

Present in person: Jesse Pollard, Richard Otis, Lynn Bohi; Ida Griesmer Selectboard liaison, Dana Clawson Staff, Tad Montgomery, Eric Francis

Present virtually: Esme Cole, Laura Simon; Erik Krauss, Selectboard and former HEC member

Jesse called the meeting to order at 5:04pm.

Public comment: Ida and Erik introduced themselves to those they had not met before. Tad and Eric introduced themselves.

Coordinator's report:

- Richard has digitized the Wastewater Treatment plant building plans.
- RBES (residential building energy standards) 3 hour presentation was a few weeks ago. About a dozen builders attended to hear about new standards.
- CBES (commercial building energy standards) made a presentation to the Planning Commission. A new item is all new commercial buildings HVAC systems must be inspected by an outside inspector.
- Code standards is a State committee Dana is a member of. Vermont does not enforce standards. However, a builder can be held liable for 6 years if a building is not built to code. Vermont has a goal that all new construction be Net Zero by 2030.
- WABA had a level 3 audit last year. There is no information about costs. Friar Electronics did a walk-through last week and will create a master plan for the whole rink with costs. The Vermont Treasurer intends to set up a way to fund items that were scheduled to receive MERP funds.
- In April, there will be a tour of the WRJ wastewater treatment plant. It has a water to air heat pump system, but there is not enough water to use all 12 pumps to heat the building, so they have used only 6 pumps.

Window Dressers: Some in lead positions have stepped back. Laura will be the new volunteer coordinator. WE still need coordinators for the food and clients.

EV expo and Earth week: HEC will help advertise Earth Week April 26 and 27. EV expo is September 6 at Lyman Point Park, outside the Town Hall. Parks and Recreation will display their electric lawn equipment. Laura will invite VEEP to have a display.

Communication: HEC and CAST need to do a better job telling others what has been accomplished. There is a subcommittee working with the Cartoon College to design a trifold pamphlet. JD Hawks has been helpful in reporting HEC activities in the every other week Town Activities report.

Geothermal Heating District: A brief history was given: a cost analysis done says it is viable, costing somewhere between \$6 and \$8 million. Two entities/ utility companies have been approached about a public-private partnership with the Town or being in charge of the end product as a utility. Legal

details are being explored. It was asked if it could be a district, similar to a fire or water district or if should be a utility. Should it be a lease or ownership. Answers are unknown and being discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm

Lynn Bohi, Clerk

Esme Cole Oct. 2025 Laura Simon Dec. 2025 Sarah Kelly 2026

Richard Otis 2026 Cathy Geiger 2027 Lynn Bohi 2027

Jesse Pollard 2027