

Draft Hartford Energy Commission minutes

April 24, 2025

Present in person: Jesse Pollard, Cathy Geiger, Lynn Bohi, Sarah Kelly, Richard Otis (5:50); Dana Clawson, staff, Eric Francis, Tad Montgomery, Lexi Webster

Present virtually: Laura Simon, Esme Cole

Jesse called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

Public Comment: Eric went to a meeting at Dartmouth about geothermal. Local geology means the 160 degree water under ground is impractical for use. But geo exchange works locally. The engineers will solve all the technical questions. Systems can be hybrid, using solar, hydro, air source, or heat pumps. Using ground water for 30 years will reduce the amount of water hot enough to use. Taking 2 degrees out below ground cools the earth. It is better to oversize a system. Tad wants to pull together towns that are thinking of using geothermal or geo exchange and will organize this. The Irving Institute at Dartmouth has a geothermal group and will present a local conference in the fall.

Public Private Partnerships policy: Lexi is Hartford's new Housing and Development specialist. The Planning Department developed a policy about Public Private Partnerships (PPP) the goal of which is to bring together government and the private business sectors. There are many types of PPPs. All have risks: cost overruns, political opposition, not enough reward, or won't bring in hoped for revenue. There are two examples of PPP in Vermont: Rutland working to build a hotel, restaurant and bar with incentives and St Albans to build work force housing on city owned land. A town can get a grant and disburse the funds to organizations, or use a TIF district. Hartford's current TIF district will expire soon. The Selectboard has adopted the PPP policy, anticipating that it is a living document and probably will be changed in the future. The policy has a series of stages each with questions to be answered. All will be reviewed by the Selectboard.

Infra red cameras: CAST has proposed that infra red cameras be bought and housed at Hartford libraries to be loaned out. The Town will own the cameras. Cathy moved and Sarah seconded that up to \$1000 of CAP funds be used to purchase cameras. Motion passed unanimously.

Coordinator's report:

- Dana presented the geothermal idea to the Selectboard in early April. It went well.
- Window Dressers will be at the Bugbee resource Fair on Friday, May 2 from 3-5pm.
- Dana will organize a tour of the WRJ Wastewater plant soon.
- The conference at Dartmouth will be September 18 and 19. Cost is \$225 and HEC funds are available. It is about Local Solutions to Bounce Forward to Create Resilient Communities.
- The second floor Town Hall building's heat pumps need repair. Popped coils and leaking coolant were found. And the condenser needs work. Estimated cost is \$22,000. Dana will go to the Selectboard on May 13 and ask for a single bid contract exemption.

May meeting has been moved to May 29th to accommodate peoples schedules.

Minutes: Richard moved and Esme seconded that the March minutes be approved as presented.
The motion passed unanimously.

Reminders:

Earth week open houses are this weekend.

HCC Block Party will be June 25 from 5-8pm

The meeting adjourned at 6:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi, Clerk

Esme Cole October 2025

Laura Simon December 2025

Sarah Kelly 2026

Richard Otis 2026

Cathy Geiger 2027

Lynn Bohi 2027

Jesse Pollard 2027