

Draft Hartford Energy Commission minutes

May 29, 2025

Present in Person: Jesse Pollard, Richard Otis, Cathy Geiger, Laura Simon, Lynn Bohi, Sarah Kelly; Dana Clawson, staff; guests- Tad Montgomery, Eric Francis, Marty Shimko

Virtually present: Esme Cole

Priorities 2025

Environmental Hazards : culvert crawlers Education & town Involvement: EV, Block Party
Municipal ops: wastewater treatment plant Geothermal: Hotel Coolidge, technology, logistics

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

Minutes: Richard moved and Cathy seconded that the April minutes pass as presented. Unanimously approved.

Agenda changes: Add Energy Sustainability class project to install solar panels at mobile home parks.

Coordinator's Report:

- Upcoming HEC events
 - Window dressers: October 2-8, need food coordinator, measuring will start soon, 187 volunteers needed, can HEC or WD organize a carpool from Hartford to Sharon at some park & ride?
 - EV event: September 6 at Lyman Point Park, Laura and Cathy are working on details
 - Styrofoam: October 4
 - HCC Bloc Party: June 25 at Lyman Point Park
 - Local Solutions conference: Sept. 18&19 - sign up with Dana
- Green Up Day went well, lots of junk removed
- Heat pumps for floors 2 and 3 are having problems. Engineers are needed to fix them. It may be time to think about a different system.
- Curb your Car: This was the same day as Walk to School Day. Many people participated and the police gave away 7 bike helmets to students.
- Culvert crawlers gave Public Safety a presentation. It was appreciated.

Culvert crawlers: The Dartmouth students last year made a GIS map and can prioritize culverts that need to be looked into. The students walk roads and clean out culverts as they walk and also register them on the GIS system. Last year's work was in West Hartford. Recently, they have mapped emergency management routes. Two roads came to the top: Willard Road and VA Cut Off. Willard Road because it only has one exit, which is down the hill. On VA Cut Off the debris builds up near culverts and causes trouble. The students presented all this to Public Safety, the Planning Department, and Department of Public Works one week prior to the most recent flooding event. The students are looking for community partners who know their area and will walk it. They have talked to White River Partnership but the work does not intersect. The students have a grant from the National Science Foundation. The maps will eventually be open sourced. People can add

culverts and send pictures to be added. HEC members added comments. Smart Mobility has a map of all Vermont roads and how to re-route around problems. It has culverts also. VTrans has a map of all areas surrounding bridges in GIS. For culverts near roads, there is a town ordinance saying the property owner is responsible for keeping the culvert clean that are on their property. The students have made a flyer about how to maintain a culvert.

Regional Plan: The Town Energy Plan, Regional Plan and State Plan must align in order for the PUC and PSD to give deference to Hartford's opinions about future energy issues, Hartford's Energy Chapter needs to be updated by June of 2027. HEC will form a subcommittee by the end of this year. The definition of "forest" should be looked into. Dana has sent Hartford's Enhanced Energy Plan packet to HEC members, as well as a follow up information. Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission will attend the HEC meeting in July.

Block Party: HEC has not finalized our marketing materials which will include a tri-fold pamphlet and updating the website. Where is it? Has VEEP been invited to the Block Party? Laura will do so. Members to person the table are : Jesse, Lynn, and Dana. Laura will be next door at Resilient Hartford, and CAST will share the table with HEC.

Priorities: These will be included in the minutes and agenda monthly.

Geothermal: VTrans will have someone at train depot soon. Eric will see if they can talk about bore holes in the railroad wye.

The Solar panel students did not attend.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10pm.

Respectfully submitted, 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