

Draft Hartford Energy Commission minutes

June 26, 2025

Present in person: Laura Simon, Lynn Bohi, Jesse Pollard, Esme Cole. Richard Otis; Dana Clawson, staff; guests: Tad Montgomery, Eric Francis

Present virtually; none

Priorities 2025

Hazardous materials: culvert crawlers Education and town involvement: EV, Block Party
Municipal ops: Wastewater treatment Geothermal: Hotel Coolidge, technology, logistics

Jesse called the meeting to order at 5:17pm.

Pubic Comments; none

Minutes: Esme moved and Richard seconded that the May minutes pass as presented. Unanimously passed.

Coordinators' Report:

- Dana attended a New England Sustainability Conference to hear what other towns are doing. Hartford is more active than most of the municipalities in attendance.
- Town Hall heat pumps are now working.
- Window Dressers: All is moving along for October 2-8 in Sharon.
- Trailblazers training starts at the end of July. Class can hold 15, and 8 spots are filled.
- Vermont Adult Learning will hold a heat pump class for Trailblazers at the end of their 8 weeks of class.
- Level 2 chargers at the public parking lot near VFW need to be in place by October. There is some doubt that Norwich Solar may not have enough employees to do this.
- Level 3 chargers: There is hope that Federal funds will be available.
- TIF district funds may run out soon

Hotel Coolidge: Adam and David met with Town staff to discuss funding, increased costs for materials, tax stabilization, could it be a cooperative structure, or a private equity company. It seems like the Federal government is still OK with geothermal. HEC members comments: town staff supports the idea, David and Adam have come together on the structure, the state of the economy is slowing, Richard will tour Dartmouth's geothermal project, a downtown district is a good idea, Hartford is leading the state on

geothermal, mid term elections are coming, the climate crisis is here now, Tad went to a seminar on energy and two developers of geothermal talked about lessons learned, and the seminar was recorded by Middlebury Energy Committee, local towns are where the action is about geothermal, Hartford should team with other towns- could Deb organize this?, Vermont Law and Grad School is working on a poster showing the steps of how geothermal districts work, HEC or the town will need a lawyer to be involved, and the parking issue needs attention.

Public engagement

- Block Party went well. Restorative Justice has volunteered for Window Dresser and Styrofoam collection
- EV event is coming along for Saturday, September 6
- Publicity committee was formed; Lynn, Sarah, and Jesse to meet with JD about ¼ cards and posters and website changes/additions.

Flooding/Culverts

- Sarah got a grant to fund an app to map culverts and more
- DPW wants input on content
- On July 7 people will beta test the app
- Culverts on personal property worries DPW

Regional Plan/ Energy Chapter

- Brian K from Two Rivers Regional Commission will meet with HEC
- HEC will use Brian's numbers, we need to produce the narrative
- See Dana's email from May 29 for plan
- Goals in energy plan may not be reachable and need to be more realistic

CAST- On their next agenda, is to narrow the focus and add measurable numbers

The meeting adjourned at 6:12pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Bohi, Clerk

Esam Cole Oct 2025

Laura Simon Dec 2025

Sarah Kelly 2026

Richard Otis 20206

Cathy Geiger 2027

Lynn Bohi 2027

Jesse Pollard 2027