

Draft Hartford Energy Commission Minutes

July 24, 2025

Present in person: Cathy Geiger, Esme Cole, Sarah Kelly, Jesse Pollard, Lynn Bohi, Richard Otis (5: 45); guests Tad Montgomery, Eric Francis, Sherry Bouchart, Bryan Kovalick, TRORC

Present virtually: Laura Simon, guest Bill Sterns LEAC

Jesse called the meeting to order at 5:10pm.

Minutes: Esme moved and Sarah seconded that the June minutes pass as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: none

Coordinator's report:

- Vermont Council on Rural Development conference is coming up. If you would like to attend, please let Dana Know.
- Local Solutions conference at Dartmouth on September 18 and 19 is coming up and is aimed at Town Managers. Tell Dana if you would like to attend.
- Block Party in June was well attended, but HEC table had little interest. We need an interactive thing or candy, something to peak interest.
- Dana was a panelist at a battery safety event. One relevant issue is if an electric car is in an accident and the battery gets cracked, it could catch fire.
- Town Hall is on a flex load program with Green Mountain Power. The program will change soon in that Hartford will no longer be penalized for being proactive in using less electricity by turning the cooling down at 4:00pm.
- The budget process starts soon. Dana will again ask for a facilities manager.
- HEC is due for an update on activities to the Selectboard in September.
- The Selectboard last week approved installing level 2 chargers at the South Main Street parking area. There will be 6 chargers. The Fire Department will connect with appropriate state personnel.
- Is Hartford thinking about E bike chargers? Not yet. They do not yet have universal plug systems. Additionally, some in NYC have caught fire.

Culvert Crawlers: They have developed an open source phone application. Twenty-five people are now using it. Every Monday from 4:00 to 6:00pm this summer the crawlers will inspect different areas. They would like others to take over culverts, once the culverts have been dealt with. After the next flood event would be a good time to alert people.

Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission: Bryan was invited to discuss the update process of the regional plan and Hartford's energy chapter of the Town Plan. The data may be used to update our plan, though many are targets. Wilder Dam is included in energy production. HEC needs to look at aspirational ideas. An updated town plan gets substantial deference with the PUC. We should include: needs, resources, equity impacts, and problems. The Planning Commission (PC) will probably ask HEC to write a draft and take it to PC, who will review and take it to the Selectboard. Municipal Planning grants are available from State Planning and Development office. HEC should ask PC about the process for the future. Public Service Department has required topics. The hazard mitigation plan is also due in March 2026. This is currently in draft form and CAST and Resilient Hartford are reviewing it. Should HEC and CAST and Resilient Hartford review the two draft plans and comment on them before passing them on to the PC? When our plan is complete, TRORC has a checklist of items to review the plan. Bryan will send the list to HEC.

Coolidge: The Selectboard approved the proposed Public Private Partnership. Parking will be an important issue to address, since the downtown relies on tourists visiting here. The Northern Borders (NB) Grant is due soon. This project has been on NB radar for several years. A solution to parking may be the focus of the grant proposal. The Planning Department will talk about the history of parking soon. Perhaps a car share could work. A subcommittee will meet next week to work on car share idea and any charter changes that need to be made.

EV expo: Cathy is the site manager for this September 6 event from 11am to 6pm at Lyman Point Park. There are 3 corporate sponsors who have pledged \$900.00. Site set up will need tables and chairs and tents. The musician will be asked if their microphone system can be used for announcements. Items to pay for include: food for volunteers (approximately 20), t-shirts or hats for volunteers, flyers to post, publicity like letters to editor, signs about event. The website is UVEVExpo.org to sign up to volunteer. The website also has a list of presentation topics. Sherry will host a sign painting party on Saturday, August 2 from 2-4 and if needed Sunday 12-3. There are a few donations of raffle prizes. HEC will pay for the coffee. There will be a few E bikes on display.

The meeting adjourned at 6:43pm.

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