

Draft Hartford Energy Commission minutes

September 25, 2025

Present in person: Esme Cole, Jesse Pollard, Lynn Bohi, Richard Otis (5:10); Dana Clawson, staff; Ida Griesberg, Selectboard liaison; Erik Francis

Present virtually: Cathy Geriger, Laura Simon; guest Sherry Bouchart

Priorities:

Hazardous Materials: culver crawlers Education & Town involvement EVexpo, block party
Municipal Ops: wastewater treatment Geothermal: Hotel Coolidge, technology, logistics

Jesse called the meeting to order at 5:06pm.

Public comment: Sherry gave a wrap-up on the EV event. It was very busy until the rain came. 200 people had pre-registered along with 3 dealers. She sent a survey to sponsors and volunteers, with no response so far. The sponsors have sent in their checks, totaling \$2300. Dana and Sherry will handle the reimbursement. More than expected was raised. Discussion on what to do with the funds. Sherry would like to use it for E bike chargers in Lebanon. It was decided to split the excess 60% to Lebanon and 40% to Hartford. Next HEC meeting will discuss what to do with the funds and where to put E bike chargers.

Minutes; There is a typo in Cathy's term end year. Esme moved and Richard seconded that the minutes be approved as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Coordinator's report:

- EV chargers project is going well at the South Main Street lot. The parking ordinance changed to allow people to park in a charger space and not get a ticket.
- Dana attended a conference at Dartmouth about local solutions for climate change.
- VECAN conference is November 1.
- Trunk or treat is November 1.
- Window Dressers starts October 2. 150 inserts have been ordered.
- Community Resilience document is ready to be released to the public.
- Hazardous Materials Plan will start soon

Selectboard update: CAST reported at the last meeting. There was a question about tracking climate emissions. The CAP report from 2022 is our benchmark. Dana will try to repeat the process which is a large undertaking. CAP says if emissions in 2027 are above the goal, Hartford will need to pay for the overage. There are some items that will need

replacing or fixing that are under no one's control. Jesse will talk to the Selectboard at their next meeting.

District heat: About a district heat district or utility, Esme asked for clarification from Legislative Council, who drafted the law which became Act 142. The answer was that a municipality can establish a thermal network without a charter change. This is governed by general municipal law. Additionally, there was a report called "Thermal Energy Networks as Key Infrastructure in Vermont". Adam has sent a report to the Selectboard.

Public Engagement: This seems to need a new coordinator. HEC still has some MERP funds available. A subcommittee needs to be formed after October 8 when Window Dressers ends. A flyer should be the first item. Perhaps CAST should be part of the subcommittee or the public can also be members.

The meeting adjourned at 6:04pm

Lynn Bohi, Clerk

Esme Cole October 2025	Laurae Simon December 2025	Sarah Kelly 2026
Richard Otis 2026	Cathy Geiger 2027	Lynn Bohi 2027
Jesse Pollard 2207		