

Draft Hartford Energy Commission minutes

December 18, 2025

Priorities:

Hazardous Materials: Culvert Crawlers Education & Town Involvement: EV Expo, block party Municipal Ops: Wastewater treatment Geothermal: Hotel Coolidge, technology, logistics.

Present in person: Laura Simon, Jesse Pollard. Lynn Bohi, Esme Cole; Dana Clawson, staff guests Eric Francis, Tad Montgomery, Ida Griesmer, Selectboard liaison

Present Virtually: Cathy Geiger

Jesse called the meeting to order at 5:08pm

Public Comment: Tad: There is a bio char plant in Vermont. Bio char releases heat and could be used as a part of a geothermal network. Eric: Factional Company makes EV specific batteries. Currently it is working with Jeep and Mercades. The stable part of the battery has no components that catch fire. One can go 750 miles on one charge because of the lighter weight. And sodium batteries are starting to arrive. Ida: The Selectboard added a full time Facilities Manager to the budget. The board would like to know the agenda and values for sustainability. Dana said he should make a climate update to the Selectboard.

Minutes: Lynn moved that the priorities and term ends be added to the November minutes. Jesse suggested a typo be corrected. Laura seconded the motion as amended, It passed by all.

Coordinator's Report:

- WABA- the draft of the master study has been received. Scott Hausler is reviewing it.
- Hartford got a CBG grant due to our size. Vermont towns which have done work under this grant have not yet been reimbursed, which was not the plan.
- Vermont has placed air monitors around town . They are going to measure wood smoke. They can be found at Town Hall, and Quechee and West Hartford libraries.
- Adaptation meeting looks at climate in the Upper Valley. The most recent meeting decided to look into resources like funding opportunities and technical assistance. There is a link to a map and atlas. Link here: [Resilience Atlas – Upper Valley Adaptation Workgroup](#)

- ANR is conducting a case study about level 2 chargers. They will report to the Legislature to show how state funds are being used. After level 3 chargers are installed, the use of them by non EVs will need to be enforced.
- The Hazard Mitigation Plan has a short timeline and needs to be reviewed by a few groups before March 18, 2026. It is a massive amount of work. There is a group working on this. The group has a copy of the Public Safety Threat Assessment report. Public involvement is also necessary and meetings are scheduled for January 15 and 22.
- HEC January meeting will be January 29, due to the above meetings.
- LEAC is holding a regional meeting January 13 from 1:30-3:30 at the Lebanon library. HEC members are welcome to attend.
- Habitat for Humanity is building a house in the Latham Works/Nutt Lane area. They would like to have a day to talk about insulation and energy. January 30th is an all day workshop.

Town Report: The HEC activity report is due by the end of this year.

Enhanced Energy Plan: Bike infrastructure: Cathy is looking into West Hartford and some HEC member looked into downtown, however, there has been no downtown follow up. HEC will need to talk to Planning Dept about the review process and downtown design committee. HEC may need to talk to the Selectboard about modifications or go through Lori for funding and modifying the review process. It might be just an administrative review process. Step one is to find places downtown to host the bike racks. Esme, Ida and Dana will look into this. We also need to update the Two Rivers Regional planning Commission grant and also to prioritize parts to work on. A definition for “forest” would be good. Laura and Lynn will look into the forest issue.

HEC could look into a study of the interfaces possible between cars, busses, and park and rides. Perhaps as a part of the study of downtown parking. The Planning Commission has a grant of \$33,000 for this. HEC might guide the grant writer into what to look for- like multi modal. Ride share could also be looked into thru an FY 2026 municipal planning grant. Questions would include: who owns the car(s), would there be a designated parking space for the car(s), who would run the program, and could the cars the Town currently owns be used? Zipcar has already been looked into and it does not work. Can Advanced Transit be combined with the park and rides? The Chamber of Commerce has results of a study about cars coming onto downtown . However it does not include N.H. car data.

Covered bike racks are best for E bikes, since water and electricity do not play well together. Are regular bike racks a priority over E bike racks? HEC needs to talk with the Planning Department and ask Lori for periodic reports on her study. People have

volunteered to build covers for bike racks. This will not work due to the need for permits. Depending on the locations, balcony solar might work.

Public Engagement : Long ago, we had a Cartoon Studies College student working on this for a \$300 stipend. It will be a tri-fold. CAST and HEC should make one document. JD Hawks has said he will help. Start is the end of January.

The meeting adjourned at 6:28pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Bohi, Clerk

Sarah Kelly 2026 Richard Otis 2026 Cathy Geiger 2027 Lynn Bohi 2027

Jesse Pollard 2027 Esme Cole 2208 Laura Simon 2028