

DRAFT
Hartford Energy Commission minutes
January 24, 2019
Town Hall, 171 Bridge St, WRJ

Present: Erik Krauss, Martha McDaniel, Ryan Scelza, Niki Thran, Lynn Bohi; Alan Johnson, Selectboard liaison; Geoff Martin, Staff; Paige Greenfield, guest

Erik called the meeting to order at 6:32.

Additions to Agenda:

Website update – tips for energy saving; Randolph Energy Committee idea of partnering with a hospital.

Minutes:

Two wording changes were requested. Martha moved and Ryan seconded that the December minutes pass as amended. The motion passed.

Municipal projects:

Police Lighting and Ventilation: The department has a quote for the locker room and conference room lighting, motion sensors and exit signs. The ventilation is being worked on by one of the contractors that worked on the energy audit. He will write a work scope for an RFP, help in the selection of a contractor, and commission the system at the end of the process. There was an exhaust fan installed in the evidence room, but it wasn't installed correctly. Additionally, the armory room has solvents and is not ventilated. Geoff hopes to get the RFP out as soon as possible. The work may be done this fiscal year.

WRJ Wastewater: Some new blowers were installed which are not energy efficient. Efficiency Vermont (EVT) will visit soon to figure out if anything can be done to reduce electricity usage. There is no way to reduce the input to the plant. After the new sewer work on South Main Street is finished, the businesses do not have to connect to the system. It would be good to find incentives for businesses to connect and reduce the cost of electricity for the town.

Wilder Well and Olcott Falls Park: Some changes have been made to the upcoming energy efficiency program. There will not be a standalone event. EVT will be providing more money than previously thought. They will supply kits worth close to \$50.00 for the door to door campaign. For ten houses, they will have \$500 for COVER to use, perhaps for insulated skirting. The door to door effort will still consist of describing the existing programs, giving out the kits, and asking if they would like to sign up with COVER for renovations. The date for the door to door is Saturday, February 16 at 10am. There will be training at 9am. There will be a follow up door to door during the next week from 5 to 7 pm. Geoff asked for four volunteers: Geoff, Niki, Lynn, Paige and Alan. Ryan will help with the mid week visits. Residents who want help filling out applications for energy services may sign up to have a volunteer come to their house or, if they are getting work done with COVER, the volunteer will come with COVER.

Plastics Ban: The Selectboard is discussing passing a plastics ordinance. It would ban single use plastics. This may become a legislative issue at the State level. Ryan mentioned a company called Loop that returns plastic to the maker, and will send more information.

Energy Chapter: There is a meeting next week on Thursday, January 31 at 6:00 in Room 2 of Town Hall to introduce the Energy Chapter to the public. Notices for the event will be in the Listserv, Valley News calendar, posters, sent to other energy committees, and notices will be sent to attendees of the June kick off meeting. Additional ideas were to ask the RPC, Daily UV, and VT Digger to announce it.

Go! Vermont Launch from Vital Communities:

Quechee needs a way to ride share. Go! Vermont has created a ride-sharing app, and most people are not aware of it. Vital Communities would like more people to sign up, including HEC members. Vital Communities will launching a campaign to get people to sign up for the app. There will then be an event for those that signed up, and at the event there will be “speed dating” so that people can meet those they may share a car with. The campaign will be for Woodstock, Quechee and Hartland. Paige Heverly is designing a guide for using the app that HEC can distribute. HEC is also being asked to investigate the website to see how it works so that commissioners can explain it to others.
www.connectingcommuters.com

Northeast Mayors for Carbon Pollution Pricing:

Erik connected with the organizers, and Hartford may join the coalition, even though we do not have a mayor. The Town is free to decide who should be the connection to the group: Town Manager, Geoff, or a Selectboard member. Erik will connect with them again to find out what they have done so far and any plans for the future. The Town could potentially put a price on carbon by either passing an ordinance or a charter change.

The carbon pricing study committee report was delivered to the Legislature this week. A copy is on the intranet in resources. Erik has read part of the Executive Summary and said one important point made was carbon can be priced without harming low income Vermonters. HEC noted it will be difficult to reach carbon reduction goals without a price on carbon combined with other strategies for lowering emissions.

Planning – Events:

- Taxes are due Friday, February 8. Last year HEC had a display in the lobby outside the Treasurer’s office to inform residents about HEC. This could be done again. Martha will cover early hours, Niki midday, and Erik until 5:00pm. Geoff will update the quarter page hand out and have information on the Town Master Plan public hearings, which are March 18 and possibly March 25. Go!Vermont sign up will also be encouraged.
- Town Meeting Day is Saturday, March 2. There is Coffee with Committees from 9 to 10 am and mingling at lunch time. HEC will have a table. Ryan, Alan, Lynn, Erik, Niki and Geoff will be there. We will display the banner, Go!Vermont information, the quarter sheet, and information about the Energy Chapter.
- Voting Day Tuesday, March 5. HEC decided not to table here.

- Better Buildings by Design on February 6-7 in Burlington. It is very technical, but people interested can attend.
- Lobbying Day organized by VNRC at the Statehouse in Montpelier. Niki will attend.
 - VNRC has posted a Blueprint for Progress on their website. They have also posted a Climate Action Plan for 2019.

Planning – Work Plan for 2019/20:

Ideas were tossed around for how to divide into work groups. The decision was a group for each of the topic in the Energy Chapter Plan: **Transportation, Building Integrity and Renewable Energy.**

The work group members are:

Transportation – Martha, Ryan, Paige

Building Integrity – Lynn

Renewable Energy – Niki

Alan will float. Erik will connect with Fred to get his choice, and Erik will join whichever group needs another member. Additionally, work groups can have members who are not part of HEC.

The HEC recognized that many of the ideas in the chapter will work better on at the regional level. Perhaps instead of just having the Roundtable once a year, there could be quarterly meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi, Clerk