CAST Meeting January 5, 2022

Building and Energy: Tagged window dressing as top priority to include the February report to the SB because there is a group organizing the project.

Priority across all sectors: Need communications plan that should include an easy to navigate website to pull together all the various strings that CAST is working on. Goal of such a site is for outreach, education and to promote accountability. Carolyn will reach out to Ted Redman to ask about existing sites that are good examples. We’ll include in our report to the SB the need to create a standalone website.

John suggested looking at the Zoning regs and speaking with the Planning Board and highlighting the areas where CAST could provide actionable input.

John suggested asking car dealers to introduce potential customers to the EV market. Molly said there is a booklet in the works geared to Hartford residents who may be in the market for an EV. (The booklet could live on the website.) An EV ambassador program is a work-in-progress and CAST should show support for the effort in our report to the SB. CAST should also support the return of an annual EV driving event. More work is needed to create a plan for numbers, locations and types of EV charging stations the town might need in the near future.

Need to make town more bike and walker friendly. Encourage towns to make and maintain sidewalks better during the winter. Encourage the town to improve existing walking and biking routes. Problem areas that were mentioned included routes to West Leb and UVAC. Ask to have a study done on how to improve walking and biking in town. John will follow-up with Matt Osbourne regarding the status of a pre-existing plan.

Waste Management: Status of sewer/waste water capacity. Dana will be following up. This will be something for future study, but not part of upcoming report.

Trees: Laura will connect with the Tree Board to see what they are doing and how it relates to CAST’s mission.

Action Item: Help the food forest program raise money for the demo project at Clifford Park. John will be in touch with the fundraising to see if CAST can be helpful.

Action Item: Look into the possibility of getting an Americorp volunteer(s) to help in the field and with administrative tasks (such as a website and communications)

Establish relationship with someone to work on school lands. Establish relationships with HOAs and schools where students might work on projects that mesh with their curriculums.

Dana will see about printing copies of Hartford’s Climate Action Plan for distribution to town libraries. (Our $60K budget isn’t available until June.)

Next Meeting: Dana will send out a poll.