

APPROVED
Hartford Energy Commission Minutes
January 25, 2018
Town Hall, 171 Bridge St, WRJ

Present: Martha McDaniel, Lynn Bohi, Ryan Scelza, Erik Krauss, Cathy Geiger, Peg Allen; Alan Johnson, Selectboard Liaison; Geoff Martin, Staff

Martha called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Minutes: Typos and grammar problems were pointed out. Cathy moved the December minutes be approved as amended and Erik seconded. The motion passed.

Energy Coordinator Updates:

Solar: The 75kW solar system on the WRJ waste water facility is currently connected and working. On January 24, a 30 kW system was installed on the Public Works building. It is not yet operating. In late 2017, Norwich Technologies filed for an extension of the Certificate of Public Good (CPG) deadline for the 150 kW project at WABA. The Public Utility Commission (PUC) denied Norwich Technologies' extension request, and has not yet responded to the developer's Motion to Reconsider. The extension request was made in order to give Norwich Technologies time to address the structural issues with WABA's roof. The PUC should have a decision on whether or not to extend the CPG deadline by February 10. Hartford has reached its net metering cap (500kW), and the Selectboard is investigating whether or not there are options to allow for the development of more net metered projects.

Telematics: Telematics devices track vehicle actions, such as GPS, idling, and fuel consumption. If Hartford were to implement the technology, the goals would be to cut fuel and maintenance costs, reduce fuel use and emissions, improve fleet utilization and efficiency, increase driver safety, and gather data that can be used to evaluate a switch to alternative fuels. Geoff and Dillon are currently working with one vendor, but are gathering other quotes.

Lights: The Transfer Station and the majority of ancillary buildings on the grounds are being looked at for a lighting upgrade. Geoff is getting three quotes from distributors. The upgrade to LED is projected to save \$3,254 per year.

Green Mountain Power (GMP) curtailable rate: The curtailable rate is for large customers who have time-of-use rates. GMP would send a warning in advance of peak demand, so that the customer can reduce usage during the peak and thus save money. Geoff is talking with Public Works, which suggests targeting the Wilder Well. With careful planning, the well should be able to cut use totally during peak rates.

Bugbee heat pumps: The cost of renting heat pumps from GMP would be \$1,400 per month. The cost of purchasing the system is around \$68,000. Last year's oil bill was only about \$5,000, so the rental option would not be cash flow positive.

Batteries: GMP has a battery program, which allows customers to rent batteries from GMP at a low cost in return for giving GMP the ability to drain power from them during peak demand periods. Right now, the program is for residential customers only. There is a small chance that GMP will extend this to municipal and commercial customers in the near future.

New member: Ryan Scelza is an official member, but HEC still has one opening. Ryan Munn is not able to join. Sally Bellew, who helped with Weatherize Upper Valley, may be available. Another possible source is to look into the PUC's database of permit applications for solar installations. **Erik volunteered to sort the data.** HEC could send anyone that applied for a permit for solar a postcard. Cathy suggested recruiting a Hartford High senior to be a short term member, who could get school credit and then discuss the experience with others at school. The education work group noted that the opening should be advertised at Warm Up Wilder.

Carbon Tax Speaker Forum: Hartford is working with Norwich, Thetford, Hartland and Woodstock to put together a Carbon Tax Speaker Forum. The speakers are Janet Milne, from Vermont Law School, and Erin Mansur, from Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business. The event will be held on Monday, February 12 from 7:00 to 8:30 in the Tracy Hall Multipurpose Room. The speakers will provide basic information about carbon taxes, and some information about carbon pricing schemes that other states are considering. The idea of a follow up forum was discussed. The potential second session would explain the history of the ESSEX Plan in Vermont, and why and how the proposed legislation has changed thus far. The small group working on the forum **needs help with: publicity and developing seed questions for the Q & A, in case the audience has none. A sign in sheet is needed. HEC members may bring snacks.**

Work Groups:

Education: The banner is still being held up from printing by the lack of a high resolution Town seal. A handout and a postcard for the Warm Up Wilder program are almost complete. **Peg and Lynn will set up a table in Town Hall as people pay taxes the week of January 29 to February 2. At the next work group meeting, the group will discuss what resources to bring to Budget and Candidates' night and Community Day.** 3E Thermal, a statewide organization that works with landlords to help them weatherize, would be happy to lead an event with landlords from Hartford. They suggested a separate event for landlords, rather than attending the Warm Up Wilder event.

CEP work group: The group met with three consultants about the process they have in mind for engaging the public around energy planning. There is an RFP out to consultants, who may apply individually or cooperatively. The consultant(s) will lead the public engagement process, and analyze information gathered throughout that process to ensure the ideas expressed are reflected in the CEP. The consultant(s) will also communicate the message via various media outlets. One consultant suggested that the best way to get the word out is to go where people already are, such as at a curling club, the aquatic center, school events, etc.

Website: The HEC website needs to be updated, especially town employee names. The Community Energy Dashboard link needs to be added, since it is the best source of information for how to save

energy. **The education work group will address this at their next meeting and discuss communication with the public.** The Selectboard has found that most of the users of the Hartford website are people that are considering moving to or starting a business in Hartford. **Ryan can help manage the website.**

Meeting structure: The HEC agreed that the work group structure is useful. There was a suggestion to discuss only the items the work groups need help or input on at the whole group meetings. Commissioners felt that a 90 minute whole group meeting may be long enough. This may vary month to month as the Chair sees fit, depending on the number of items on the agenda. It also may not be necessary to hold a whole group HEC meeting every month.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Bohi, Clerk

Tasks are in **bold**