

DRAFT
Hartford Energy Commission Minutes
February 22, 2018
Town Hall, 171 Bridge St, WRJ

Present: Erik Krauss, Peg Allen, Lynn Bohi, Cathy Geiger, Martha McDaniel, Ryan Scelza; Alan Johnson, Selectboard Liaison; Geoff Martin, Staff; (Alexandra) Niki Thran, Guest

Martha called the meeting to order at 6:31.

HEC members introduced themselves to Niki.

Minutes: After noting several grammatical errors, Cathy moved that the January minutes be adopted as amended and Peggy seconded. The motion passed. The question of where to find minutes was raised. Some minutes are on the HEC intranet page, but the more recent ones are not. Minutes from 2015 to present are on the town website. **Geoff will ask Dylan if the town website is searchable.**

Energy Coordinator Updates:

Solar Projects: Both the Waste Water and Public Works solar arrays are in place and operational. The appeal for an extension request for the WABA project was denied, and thus that project is not going forward. Eventually, the public will be able to view how much the panels are producing. The Public Utility Commission (PUC) is reviewing the current 500 kW per customer cap on net-metering systems. **HEC members should consider submitting a comment to the PUC in support of raising or eliminating the cap for non-profits and municipalities.**

Fleet Management Telematics: The town now has received three quotes for telematics. One was more expensive than Verizon's, but Samsara was able to match Verizon's quote. Thus, the Town will run a pilot with the Samsara devices. The pilot will last for 30 days. While Samsara was able to match Verizon's price, there is a five year agreement, compared to Verizon's three year term.

EV Charging Station: The Town will be applying for the Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment (EVCE) grant through the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development. The grant will pay up to \$20,888 and requires a 25% match. The Town is considering using the grant to purchase a dual port Level 2 charging station, which could charge two vehicles at the same time. The town will likely charge a small fee to pay for use, and will set the rate. The charger may or may not be networked, but Hartford is leaning toward the more expensive networked one. There is also electrical work involved, costing somewhere around \$4000 to \$6000. The grant may only be used in a Designated Downtown.

Automated Cars: Vermont Department of Transportation (VTrans) is encouraging the legislature to come up with legislation that would allow for the testing and use of automated vehicles in Vermont. VTrans is forming a working group, which Geoff has been asked to join, to come up with language for that legislation.

Carbon Tax Forum Recap: There was a good turnout, with just over 30 people in attendance. The speakers presented neutral information and had complimentary topics. A couple of people who attended publicized events that they are holding on the ESSEX Plan, so a follow up session was not deemed necessary. It worked well to cooperate with other towns. The speakers successfully informed the audience about the basics of carbon taxes without taking sides and steering clear of the ESSEX Plan. **Geoff will ask the presenters for their slides. Cathy volunteered to develop a Carbon 101 one pager with the information presented.**

Budget and Candidates Night and Town Meeting Day: On Monday, February 26, **Peg and Lynn will pass** out HEC pamphlets from 6:30 to 7:15 for Budget and Candidates Night. On Saturday, March 3 from 9:00 to 10:00 and 12:00 to 1:00, **Cathy, Ryan, Alan, and Geoff** will person a table with the light board and information about the CEP.

Education Work Group: The work group identified future events for HEC to host or attend. The work group will host: Warm Up Wilder on Saturday, April 7 from 11-2; possibly an event in May about weatherization for landlords with 3E Thermal, and; Warm Up West Hartford in October. The work group plans to attend: The two events listed above; Flavors of the Valley on Sunday, April 8, and; The Hartford Community Coalition Block Party in June.

The HEC pop-up banner has been ordered. There is an infrared camera application that works with iPhones and one for Androids, each costing about \$200, that would be useful at the Warm Up village's events. In order to buy one, HEC needs to write a proposal about why it is needed and present to town staff. The plan would be to loan the device out to residents, similar to how the watt meter and Button Up DVD are loaned out.

CEP work group: The work group solicited proposals from three consultants to help with public engagement for the CEP, and selected the team of Rebecca Stone and Delia Clark. The work group will meet with them in March. Meanwhile, they will prepare for a planning meeting, review the CEP goals and strategies, develop a list of stakeholders to invite, create a poster and handout, and draft a short description of why Hartford needs a comprehensive energy plan.

Clerk for March: Geoff volunteered to take minutes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi, Clerk