

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

**Present:** Martha McDaniel, Peg Allen, Cathy Geiger, Erik Krauss, Niki Thran; Alan Johnson, Selectboard Liaison; David Urso, Paige Heverly, Guests; Geoff Martin, Staff

Martha called the meeting to order at 6:30.

**Minutes:** A couple of typos were noted in the February minutes. Cathy moved the February minutes be approved as amended and Erik seconded. The motion passed.

**Energy Coordinator Updates:**

**Transfer Station Lighting Upgrade:** The Town has selected CED–Twin State and Schaal Electric to complete the lighting retrofit at the transfer station. The total cost of the project is \$8,925, with a total of \$5,070 in rebates. The projected annual savings are \$3,155. The Town is considering doing a similar project at the Public Works garage. Geoff will write up a project description for Peg to share with the public when the project is completed.

**Comments on Biennial Update of Net-Metering Program:** The Town submitted comments to the Public Utility Commission (PUC) on its review of the current net-metering rules urging the PUC to consider eliminating the negative adjustor for municipalities retaining renewable energy certificates (RECs) from net-metered projects, and to raise the cap on net-metered capacity.

**Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment Grant:** Hartford applied for a grant through the Department of Housing and Community Development for an electric vehicle charging station. The Commission agreed that if Hartford receives the funding and moves forward with the project, the HEC should engage the public on the importance of charging infrastructure.

**Vehicle Fleet Telematics:** Hartford’s trial with Samsara is coming to an end next week. Geoff and Dillon will bring a recommendation to the Selectboard soon.

**Hartford School District Solar:** The Hartford School District received 5 proposals from solar developers following its request for proposals. The highest discounts were between 18-20%. Retaining the RECs was not a feasible option given costs. Erik questioned why so few proposals suggested using rooftops. Erik felt gaining and understanding on this would be important for the CEP development.

**Discussion on HEC Presence at Flavors of the Valley:** Vital Communities (VC) invited HEC to share a table at Flavors of the Valley at no cost. VC would like HEC to speak to the support that VC has given HEC throughout its history as an example of the success that VC has had in helping develop strong Energy Commissions/Committees in the Upper Valley. Beyond that, the HEC

would be welcome to engage with participants on other topics, including the Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP). There was some discussion about the nature of the event, and the necessity to keep messaging succinct as it is a crowded event and people are moving around quickly. The HEC recognized that this event could be a place to engage with residents around the CEP, particularly as the plan relates to land use. Peg suggested bringing visuals that are land-related. Alan pointed out that the HEC could talk about VC's energy planning toolkit, which was an excellent resource for HEC in the early stages. The discussion could easily move from how the HEC began to what the HEC is working on now. Peg suggested using the tri-fold to display what VC has done for HEC, but focus all discussion on compelling questions related to land use/the CEP.

Martha voiced concern that those in attendance are not all from Hartford. Erik pointed out that 800 people came last year, and so if even a small fraction of attendees are from Hartford, the HEC will reach a lot of Hartford residents. Alan noted that land use planning will require collaboration with other towns, so having conversations with non-Hartford residents would be beneficial.

Paige commented that a presence at Flavors of the Valley will help meet HEC's goal of reaching a different audience (not just energy-minded residents). Paige also mentioned that food is not expected at the table and that after an early rush at the beginning of the event, the 1-3 PM time period will be more relaxed with time to talk.

After a final discussion on whether the focus at HEC's tables should be on Warm Up Wilder/weatherize campaigns or CEP, the HEC agreed to make a final decision after the CEP work group meeting. **Martha agreed to send out the results of the CEP work group meeting to the HEC and set up a meeting with interested HEC members to finalize Flavors of the Valley plans.**

**Discussion on "Tomorrow" Film Screening:** Cathy provided an overview of the documentary and its relevance to HEC. Paige noted that Thetford already showed it, and Mary Bryant organized the event. **Peg volunteered to contact Mary to find out the cost of showing the film, and how many people attended Thetford's event.** HEC members noted potential partners, including Hartland, which has already expressed interest, Lebanon, CROH, and the Upper Valley Adaptation Work Group. As for location, Erik suggested Briggs Opera House, and Peg suggested an outdoor screening at Town Hall.

**Education Work Group Updates:** The education work group is preparing for Warm Up Wilder on Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup>. Post cards have been sent to Wilder residents. Peg contacted Posie Taylor to see if the Sterling Springs Condo Association wants to participate. The work group will be doing a walkthrough of Wilder Library at 3:15 on Friday 3/23, at which they will think through whether or not there is any need for HEC volunteers to help out on the day of the event. Paige mentioned that the HEC should keep the event zero-waste, and asked if anyone had any reusable plastic cups. Martha has a zero waste kit.

**CEP Work Group:** Erik presented the following update on the CEP work group:

**Significant Activity Since Last HEC Meeting:**

1. Tabled at Town Meeting Day. Goals were to 1) start getting the word out that HEC is doing energy planning and that it seeks input, 2) collect contact info to keep citizens updated & publicize next events, and 3) solicit input.
2. Worked on prep for initial planning meeting.

**Current Activity & Next Steps:**

1. Initial planning meeting with consultants scheduled for 3/27. Goal of the meeting is to develop overall project plan for outreach and engagement.
2. Workgroup will meet after the 27<sup>th</sup> to plan the writing process (define priority chapters, assign lead authors, schedule document-centric milestones)

Martha mentioned that the work group did not get much information at Town Meeting Day on the flip charts. Geoff informed the group that there will be a Master Plan workgroup, and they have asked HEC if a HEC member would like to serve on the workgroup.

**New HEC Member Niki Thran:** Erik asked Niki what she is interested in working on with the HEC. Niki said she is interested in engaging the public. Erik invited Niki to join the CEP work group's next meeting. Martha mentioned that Niki could be a spokesperson for outreach in Quechee.

**Fact Sheets:** Cathy created a fact sheet on carbon taxes, and offered to create more fact sheets for HEC to use at public events. Martha suggested the HEC think about what topics it would like to create fact sheets on, and then Cathy could build the fact sheet. Geoff will put the carbon tax fact sheet on SharePoint and then commissioners will share comments. Geoff will also create a document on which commissioners can write ideas for HEC fact sheets.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05.