

APPROVED
Hartford Energy Commission Minutes
March 28, 2019

Present: Ryan Scelza, Erik Krauss, Paige Greenfield, Martha McDaniel, Lynn Bohi, Niki Thran; Geoff Martin, staff; Brannon Godfrey, Town Manager; Alan Johnson, Selectboard liaison

Erik called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Welcome Town Manager:

Members introduced themselves to Brannon and he gave some background on himself. He said the biggest challenge he sees as Town Manager is to keep Hartford growing and to attract young people and families.

Minutes:

After two minor changes, Martha moved and Niki seconded that the February minutes pass as amended. The motion passed.

Block Party:

HEC has received an invitation to once again be a part of the Hartford Community Coalition Block Party. It will be on June 12 from 5:00 to 8:00pm on both sides of the Lyman Point Park. HEC decided to accept the invitation. At future meetings HEC will discuss who will work the two shifts, whether to partner with another group, and what HEC projects should be the focus of the event .

Planning Commission Town Plan Public Hearing Review:

The first meeting on Monday, March 25 was sparsely attended. All of the questions were on the Energy Chapter, and specifically about the renewables section. The next meeting is Monday, April 1 at 5:00. The Selectboard will have two formal public hearings in May.

Municipal projects:

- **Electric car for Town Manager:** There were three good proposals, two of which were really good. All were a lease for the Chevy Bolt. The Mayors Climate Coalition produced a nationwide RFP with one more result. Geoff needs to review the contract one more time. A Bolt owner noted it is not terrific on hills in the snow, even with snow tires.
- **Electric car charging stations:** The second round of funding through the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development's EVCE grant program is open, and applications are due April 30. Once again, Geoff will apply for UV Aquatic Center. The state may design a future program specifically for sites near interstate interchanges. HEC discussed several possible sites

if a program like this were developed: Junction Marketplace and the closed convenience store at corner of Route 5 and VA Cutoff are possibilities for places to spend time while charging.

- **Efficiency Vermont (EVT) Flexible Load Management (FLM) Pilot Program:** This program is similar in some ways to the load reduction program at the Wilder Well. Flexibility is the key to the new program. Participants are expected to reduce load 13 times each year. GMP will predict peak demand each month and notify participants to reduce demand within a 3-4 hour window. Participants do not have to reduce demand, but if they do they will be charged less. The suggested building is the Town Hall. Geoff has a call the first week in April to go over details.
- **Fire Station heat pump:** This is a complicated situation. The two areas being looked at are the administrative office and the weight room. The office is the more challenging situation.
- **Ambulance idling reduction:** The Fire Department is including a request for incorporating idle reduction technology in their RFP for a new ambulance.

Work Plan for Transportation:

The Transportation Work Group is working with Bethany and Paige from Vital Communities.

Priorities: develop goals for Go! Vermont campaign for year one and arrange mini park and rides, especially in Quechee.

- The Go! Vermont program needs rewards in this area: Jake's Quechee Market and Lou's in Hanover were ideas.
- Geoff is in charge of publicity on listserves.
- The plan is to host a car pool speed dating event.
- The group is partnering with Sustainable Woodstock at a Green Drinks event and might work with the Hartland group hosting TED talks. All HEC members are encouraged to attend the Green Drinks event.
- Talk to employers to discuss incentives for carpooling.
- Talk to Stagecoach Bus about vans and routes and possibly adding some new routes.
- Work with Go! Vermont on vanpools.
- Research sign regulations and banners.

Work Plan for Building Integrity:

The Building Integrity Work Group has contacted Ashley and Kristen from Vermod asking if they will serve on the work group.

Priorities: loan program to get more money to homeowners, weatherize for clustered developments and community buildings, net zero standards, and carbon pricing work.

- **Revolving Loan Program:** focus on households that are either just above the income requirements for weatherization through SEVCA, or meet the requirements but have been on the wait list for years. Use the Heat Saver Loan program to review and process applications.

HEC could use local funds as well as outside grants to buy down interest rates or provide loan loss reserve fund. Eventually work with landlords and commercial facilities.

- Discussion: Martha suggested finding a way to create more qualified contractors and connect the HACTC building trades with EVT.
- **Weatherization:** Work with large communities, like condo associations and trailer parks to maximize participation and make it easier for contractors because they would be dealing with similar construction. The Town could encourage community buildings like libraries and non-profit organizations to include money in their budget for energy audits. The work group's goal to work with 5 associations and 2 to 4 community buildings.
 - Discussion: the school is working on a 500 kW solar field. HEC should work closer with the school district.
- **Net Zero Building Standards:** needs work on definitions and inspections. The Zoning Regulations will need to be updated. Partners will be EVT for policy work and Zoning Board for changes. The work group's goal is to meet with the Zoning Board twice before the end of the year. The challenge will be creating a policy without creating problems for people.
 - Discussion: Revenue from a carbon tax could be used to fund the town's energy programs. There was RGGI money for the PACE program, which no longer exists. HEC is unsure where that RGGI money has gone. Peter Adamczyk is a good contact to find out. The Selectboard is thinking about creating a loan fund for affordable housing.

Miscellaneous:

- There are three sandbags to hold the HEC banner stable.
- There is a Transportation of the Future meeting in WRJ on Tuesday, April 9 at 6:00 at the Engine Room.
- Website update is being worked on slowly.
- Lynn got a letter about a neighborhood online network. Perhaps this is the CROH neighborhood captains idea. She will check it out.

April Agenda:

- Erik and Martha will be absent and perhaps Paige. Niki will chair.
- Decide what the Block Party topic should be.
- The Renewable Energy work group will merge with the Building Integrity work group.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi, Clerk

