

Draft
Hartford Energy Commission Special Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2019

Present: Martha McDaniel, Erik Krauss, Paige Greenfield, Lynn Bohi, Ryan Scelza; Alan Johnson, Selectboard Liaison; Geoff Martin, staff

Erik called the meeting to order at 5:06.

The purpose is to discuss H 423, regarding increasing or eliminating the net metering cap for municipalities.

Erik read the Selectboard motion regarding HEC action on H 423, stating HEC may sign and send a letter based on the template sent by REV, and may testify to the legislature.

Erik talked to REV. REV prefers that HEC sign the group letter over writing their own letter. Erik outlined the process.

The Commissioners looked at the bill. Questions and comments arose.

- The bill covers all non-profits, not just municipalities. Erik wondered if this could be a potential loophole
- Lifting the cap may be a challenge for smaller electric suppliers
- Why is there a cap? Alan thought it has to do in part because of a mismatch between load and capacity are at odds. There has been a lot of capacity built in areas of the state that don't have enough demand, leading to expensive curtailment
- If a project is beneficial to ratepayers/the grid, should utilities have the option to accept a project even if the customer is over the cap?

Commissioners looked at the testimony from Vermont Electric Coop, Green Mountain Power, and Vermont Public Power Supply Authority.

HEC's role is to speak for the Town of Hartford. Since it is in Hartford's interest to have more net metered solar, HEC should support lifting the cap. In addition to savings for the Town, the state and regional plan asks towns to be leaders in renewable energy, and the cap limits Hartford's ability to do this.

HEC could write a letter saying it is the best interest of Hartford to lift or remove the current cap and then continue to monitor the legislation during the legislative debate. Commissioners asked if there is a downside to signing the REV letter. The only issue HEC could see is that the net metering is complicated, and could affect utilities negatively. HEC can write its own letter after signing on to the REV that could emphasize the importance of keeping capacity close to load.

Martha moved and Paige seconded that HEC sign the letter as written and continue to monitor the bill as it moves forward. The motion passed. Erik will connect with REV, Simon Dennis and Brannon Godfrey about our action.

The meeting adjourned at 5:59.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi, Clerk