

APPROVED
Hartford Energy Commission Minutes
April 26, 2018
Town Hall, 171 Bridge St, WRJ

Present: Cathy Geiger, Peg Allen, Martha McDaniel, Lynn Bohi, Niki Thran; Alan Johnson, Selectboard Liaison; Geoff Martin, Staff

Martha called the meeting to order at 6:35.

Minutes: Cathy moved and Peg seconded that the March minutes pass as presented. The motion passed.

Review of Past Month's Events:

The Education Work Group needs to develop a checklist for event planning to streamline future events.

Warm Up Wilder: The result was quality, not necessarily quantity. Approximately 18-20 people attended, and 10 of those signed up for a walk through. The event was a bit long – future events should be 90 minutes with one presentation. The postcard is a good idea, and if nothing else spreads the word that HEC exists. Food is always good. The banner needs to be anchored when outside. Brent has already completed 4 of his 5 walk throughs, and Frans has completed 2 of his 5. Efficiency Vermont and COVER were pleased with the interactions they had. HEC needs to buy reusable plates, cups, etc. for future events.

Flavors of the Valley: This is not a venue for in-depth conversations. However, it is good PR, and thus might be worth doing again. The Education Work Group needs to think of an “elevator pitch” for events like this.

Update on Municipal Energy Projects:

Charging Station: Hartford was awarded a grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development for \$20,885 to install two charging stations. They will be located in the parking lot between the former American Legion and the VFW. The work will begin this summer.

Transfer Station Lights: All interior lights have been changed to LED. The exterior lights are in process. Geoff and Peg are working on the media outreach for this.

Public Works Lights: Project is in process.

Wilder Well Solar Project: the Certificate of Public Good was issued. Hartford has one year to complete the project.

Police Station Locker Room Project: The police department is beginning work to renovate the locker rooms, and has requested that heat pumps be installed to replace the window A/C units and use for

heat in the winter. The Town is requesting bids now and work will begin at the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Telematics: Geoff and Dillon will be presenting on Telematics and their recommendation for which provider to move forward with to the Selectboard at the next SB meeting. Geoff will send some of the reports to HEC. While the trials demonstrated what each service provider could offer (reports, GPS capabilities, etc), the sample size from the trial (only 2-4 of 42 vehicles) was too small for the trial to serve as a baseline for fuel usage. The devices will be installed in 42 vehicles.

Portfolio manager: Geoff is working on putting current electricity and heating data into Energy Star Portfolio Manager. Some of this information could be displayed in the lobby at Town Hall in the future. HEC needs to develop a format for displaying the data that is informative and interesting.

PRV Mini-Hydro: The 5-Year EAP recommended looking into installing turbines within the water system. The Water Department reviewed the technology with a provider and has ruled out the possibility because there are no pressure reducing valves within the water system.

Movie "Tomorrow":

Niki has identified Saturday, October 13 at the Quechee Club as a potential date and location to screen the movie. The message of the movie is positive and shows examples of what people are doing now to improve the environment and society. HEC agreed that all Commissioners should view the movie prior to making a decision on whether or not to sponsor it. Alan volunteered to show it at his house and will send a doodle poll to find a date.

Education Work Group Updates:

There are several events coming up:

3E Thermal Workshop: This workshop is for landlords, and will be held on Wednesday, May 23 from 8:00 to 9:30 in Room 2 of the Town Hall.

HCC Block Party: Scheduled for Wednesday, June 6. It is an event to emphasize that HEC exists, but not suitable for long conversations.

Warm Up Events: An event for Quechee is being planned for July or August at the Quechee Library, and an event for West Hartford is being planned for September or October at the West Hartford Library.

CEP Work Group:

The Town Plan is being updated, and the Energy Chapter needs to be revised. This revision is now being prioritized over the writing of the Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP) because it must be revised by 2019 as required by the State. Martha is on the Steering Committee for the Town Plan. The Town and Planning Commission are preparing to hold 5 public engagement sessions in the 5 villages. The engagement session on energy will be held in Quechee at the end of May. An important consideration that will be covered at the energy meeting is siting for renewable. The Town will possibly use the same

consultants that HEC has contracted with to facilitate all 5 meetings. Commissioners should attend the energy meeting and ask friends to attend, especially people who do not usually attend such meetings. The Education Work Group can help explain why people should attend the planning meetings. The Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission website has information and recommendations about how much renewable energy each town in the region must generate in order for the State to meet the goals in the State Comprehensive Energy Plan. The Town CEP will still be worked on, but is not a top priority at the moment.

Agenda Item for May:

Cathy has made one fact sheet and is happy to create more. She would like HEC input about how to present the information in a way that is engaging.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi, Clerk