

Hartford Energy Commission minutes
May 24, 2018
Town Hall, 171 Bridge St, WRJ

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

Martha called the meeting to order at 6:31.

Minutes: A minor spelling error was noted. Cathy moved and Peg seconded that the April minutes pass as amended. The motion passed.

Municipal projects:

Telematics: The program was approved by the Selectboard. The 44 pieces of equipment should arrive soon from Verizon. The contract lasts for one year. Reports on the data will likely be sent to department heads either weekly or biweekly, and department heads will use the data to modify behavior. Martha mentioned that some organizations post performance data on a wall chart in aggregated form to allow employees to monitor performance in a non-punitive way.

Wilder Well Solar: The project with Norwich Technology is making progress. The Town is working to figure out a way to make it a community solar project with neighboring Olcott Falls Mobile Home Park. There are a couple of promising grant opportunities and the Housing Foundation, the landlord for the park, might be interested in playing a role in the project. People who sign up for community project will receive net metering credits on their bill. The hope is to take the plan to the Selectboard in mid June.

Police Department Locker Room Project: Work continues and installation of the heat pumps is expected to happen in mid July.

Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant: USDA has grants for essential community facilities in rural areas. Geoff is looking to apply for one for the Bugbee Senior Center, either to air seal and insulate the attic or install heat pumps. The grant would cover 55% of the cost up to \$55,000. If used for insulation, the project may qualify for Efficiency Vermont's Deep Energy Retrofit program, which would yield close to an additional \$20,000 in rebates. Geoff needs to verify that the Deep Energy Retrofit Program still exists. If the application is for heat pumps, it's possible there might be additional funding from Green Mountain Power, as heat pump rebates are becoming GMP's responsibility (instead of Efficiency Vermont) soon. The commissioners agreed to pick up the discussion on whether to apply for heat pumps or insulation at next month's meeting.

School District Solar: The District is signing with Norwich Technologies for a 500kW system.

Review of 3E thermal:

There were three attendees, plus a representative from USDA. It seemed that one of the attendees was planning to take advantage of 3E Thermal/USDA resources, while the other two will continue to think

about possibilities. 3E Thermal provides quality control and oversight to building owners. There was a video showing a successful project and why 3E Thermal has a good program. Geoff will ask Scott, the Program Director, if HEC can get a copy of the video to share with landlords. Two follow up ideas were mentioned: 1. Invite a few large landlords for a shorter event and they can discuss the advantages of 3E with others they know, and; 2. Make the event a site visit to allow landlords to see 3E Thermal's process and get a sense of what kinds of improvements could be made. Commissioners agreed that invitations should include an RSVP next time, and that HEC should follow up with the attendees. Finally, despite the low turnout, commissioners agreed that the fact that 230 landlords received an invitation letter and are aware that HEC exists made the event worth it.

Hartford Community Coalition Block Party:

The event is Wednesday, June 6 from 5:00 to 8:00. Peg polled members about their availability to work and will send out a schedule soon. She is making name badges with our logo. She has sandbags to hold the banner in place when there is wind. HEC will have an electric car, the light board, and a quarter sheet explaining what the HEC is and showing HEC accomplishments on the back. The event will be fast paced, so the idea will just be to get HEC's name out into the community. We may have an opportunity to speak for 3 minutes. HEC will announce its weatherize campaigns for the villages and the public session for the Town Plan revision.

Tomorrow Movie:

Alan will host a showing for CROH and HEC, and will send out a doodle poll soon. HEC discussed the purpose of hosting this movie. The conclusion was that because the documentary focuses on small actions taking place at the local level, it can serve as an inspiration to residents and town officials.

Town Plan Work Group:

The CEP work group has been asked to narrow its focus for now, and to work on the Energy Chapter of the Town Plan. The Planning Department is now in charge of logistics. The dates for public engagement have been tentatively set, with the first meeting planned for June 11, and the energy and transportation meeting planned for June 13. The work group has been writing an outline to define goals and strategy, and is developing questions for the public. The sections are buildings, renewables, and transportation. The consultants will do most of the work for the events, but HEC should help get the word out. Each HEC member should try to invite at least one friend to attend on June 13.

Education Work Group:

Cathy submitted a checklist to aid with preparing for events. It will go on the SharePoint. Warm Up Quechee will be either July 28 or August 4 from 10:00 to 11:30 with one presentation. HEC will do another postcard mailing for this event. West Hartford will be in either September or October. Most of the Warm Up Wilder walk throughs are complete.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi. Clerk