

APPROVED
Hartford Energy Commission Minutes
June 25, 2020

Present: Molly Smith, Martha McDaniel, Niki Thran, Erik Krauss, Lynn Bohi; Alan Johnson, Selectboard; Geoff Martin, staff

Molly called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

Molly read the Act 92 compliance statement.

Agenda: Move e-bike to beginning of updates; Niki is moving to Warren, Vermont in August; and discussion of changing the HEC meeting start time.

Minutes: Erik moved and Martha seconded that the May minutes pass as presented. The motion passed.

Significant activity updates:

E-bike lending: the bikes will be available to each town for three weeks. Hartford hosts them from September 20 to October 11. There are two commercial bikes and one that Karl K. from Hartland has created. Questions and options about how to organize the time followed. They can be housed at Town Hall. Bikes can be loaned some days for a 1 to 3 hour test period and other days for 2 to 3 days. Molly volunteered to sign out the bikes. There are cleaning protocols on a video from Local Motion, the owner of the bikes. There are cards on the bikes about how the bike works. Each user will have a coach to show handling, and ask questions about possible purchasing. Helmets come with the bikes. HEC is not allowed to transport the bikes to different locations. HEC should connect with Valley News to publicize. HEC needs to decide which days will be short and long term rentals. Perhaps weekends for short term and weekdays for long term. Linda Grey has a calendar for the bikes which Martha will send to all.

Climate Advisory Committee: The committee worked on the RFP for a consultant to help develop a Climate Action Plan, which was released this week. Proposals are due August 31. They are now concentrating on gathering the background data for the consultant and creating a community engagement process; Geoff has gotten two emails about the project already.

Building Integrity:

- Efficiency Vermont has announced new incentives for weatherization – they will cover 75% of the project cost up to \$5,500. There may be only one month to submit projects. HEC should publicize examples of what the money will pay for. Niki will work on a Facebook post.
- The appraiser letter and list was sent to all local banks. There has been no feedback.
- Net Zero (NZ): Kristen, from Vermod, is building a home and would like it to be in the program. Geoff has been talking to Jo-Ann and Lori about having the Planning Commission adopt stretch code as the standard until the NZ pilot is over. Stretch code is required for all projects subject to

Act 250. Any town can adopt stretch code. The group will discuss and eventually meet with the Planning Commission. There are energy savings in the first year for stretch code.

Transportation:

- The Vermont Law School students now have two projects. One is working on policies and ordinances which affect electric vehicles (EV). Molly asked if HEC would like them to present their work during the July meeting, and everyone agreed that they should. The guide will be town specific with local dealers and charging station locations.
- Route 4 ride share: Still on hold due to the need to socially distance. It was suggested that HEC watch the park and ride occupancy. Should the group go back to the businesses they talked to before and discuss telecommuting for the future?

Town Energy Coordinator:

- Public Safety ventilation system is installed and is running well. The plan was to air seal next and to get heat pumps. The police department could almost entirely get off of oil.
- Bugbee is enrolled in the Deep Energy Retrofit program. They are changing out water heaters. The kitchen stove needs better controls. The air conditioner failed recently. The insulation work is on hold as they catch up with the more immediate work.
- Carbon neutral by 2030: The longevity of the Public Safety building is in question. They are thinking about thermal storage. Stay tuned as the departments work it out.

Social Media:

- An article has been written about the Town Manager EV. It has not been published yet.
- Resilient Hartford and HEC may collaborate on an article about supporting Efficiency Vermont and VPIRG.
- An article on heat pumps should include that they also dry the air, as well as heat and cool it.

Window Dressers: The board decided to cancel the season. Too much of the work must be done in close proximity. Instead they will provide on-line training sessions for one year to teach the skills needed to do the eventual work. Meanwhile, they are also working on finding grant money and energy savings. There are many Vermont towns interested and they plan to group several together for materials and other equipment drop off. Hartford, Hartland, Hanover and Norwich are our group. Contacts for the group are Ariel and Susan Bruce (Hartland), Judy Paine (Hanover), Sally and Erik (Hartford), and Linda Grey (Norwich)

Meeting start time: Martha asked if the start time could be moved to 5:00pm while HEC is meeting virtually. The topic was not warned, so no vote was taken. It will be on the July agenda.

July agenda: Recruitment. With Niki leaving in August and Fred taking the bar exam, HEC's numbers will be low. Jon Alvin returns from National Guard in maybe Sept/October and Linda Miller should be

recovered from a medical event. A more solid timeframe and commitments are needed. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Bohi, Clerk