

APPROVED
Hartford Energy Commission Minutes
June 28, 2018
Town Hall, 171 Bridge St, WRJ

Present: Niki Thran, Martha McDaniel, Ryan Scelza, Erik Krauss, Peggy Allen, Lynn Bohi, Cathy Geiger; Geoff Martin, Staff

Martha called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Minutes:

After minor changes, Peg moved and Niki seconded that the May minutes pass as amended. The motion passed.

Miscellaneous:

Martha would like a new name badge. Geoff will print one off. Commissioners agreed that the sand bags used to stabilize the HEC banner should be lighter weight, and it would not hurt to have two. Peg and Martha will work on these. Ryan will send Cathy's checklist for events to commissioners for use for all future events. Martha let the Commission know that she will be away in July. The HEC decided to discuss whether or not there should be a July HEC meeting at the end of the meeting.

Membership Changes in HEC:

Cathy is resigning as of July 1 due to family and work commitments. However, she will still work on fact sheets and the HEC mapping project. Fred Randall has put in an application and will interview with the Selectboard on July 17. The group thanked Cathy for her service.

Review of the Energy & Transportation Public Forum:

The meeting was well attended. Matt Osborn counted 52 people, and 33 people signed in. The VINS pavilion was difficult for the acoustics due to the ceiling height and lack of sound absorbing fabrics – for future meetings, this would be a good room for presentations, but not good for small group discussions. Attendees seemed enthusiastic. In the small groups, there was confusion about the categories of pathways, barriers & opportunities, and strategies. The half hour in small groups went quickly. Eleven people signed up to participate on subject-area work groups. Their task will be to synthesize the ideas generated at the forum, conduct additional research, and make recommendations. Once a complete draft is submitted by the end of October, there will be multiple public comment periods and Selectboard review sessions. Geoff will try to put updates on the Town Plan process on the Town website. CEP work group will send an email to all attendees with a survey for feedback on the event.

Block Party Review: The sand bag used to hold up the HEC banner helped, but rather than having one large bag, there should be multiple smaller bags. Commissioners agreed that Alan's electric car

attracted people to the HEC table, but commissioners who staff the table should be more knowledgeable about the car. The light board was popular with children. Attendance overall was fair. In the future, commissioners should know the goals of the state CEP in order to better inform the public. Some of the data is online in the regional commission website. Having an electric Advance Transit bus would be a good draw. However, it probably makes more sense to have it at the Vital Communities electric car expo.

Town Energy Projects:

Wilder Well Solar: The Selectboard approved of making the project a community solar project with the Olcott Falls Manor Mobile Home Park. The Housing Foundation Inc., which owns the park, is committed to the project and has expressed interest in handling the billing. There is money from the Vermont Low Income Trust for Electricity (VLITE) to act as a loan loss guarantee in the amount of \$20,000 in the event that a participant cannot make a payment. The community solar aspect of the project, however, is all contingent on resolving an issue with Green Mountain Power related to the CPG and where the net-metering credits are permitted to go. Geoff and Norwich Technologies are working to resolve that issue. It will be a 120kW system, which can offset about 34 to 35 homes.

Transfer Station and Public Works: Both lighting projects are completed. The transfer center used half as much electricity in May as it did in March, but electricity consumption will need to be continuously tracked to determine the energy savings from the project.

Legion Parking Lot Electric Vehicle Charging Station: The renovations at the Legion Parking Lot have been delayed, but the Town intends to install the charging stations before renovations are complete. The stations need to be installed by November to meet the grant requirements.

Telematics: The devices have been installed in all vehicles. Dillon and Geoff are reviewing the data. Employees are on board with the program. The question of how to report the data remains. There are reports on several measures. The town should make the data on fuel usage public, but it would be better to have about six month's data before sharing the results.

Energy Star Portfolio Manager Data: All commissioners do not have login capacity now; however, each person can create a login. Commissioners should set up an account, and then ask Geoff to share properties with them. Since there is about ten years worth of data, it could be in the HEC report in the Town Annual Report.

VW Settlement Fund: Money for charging stations will be available soon. Geoff is currently writing an RFP, with the application due July 31. Potential locations for the stations are: Town Hall, the Wilder Park & Ride, the West Hartford Library, the Briggs Street Parking Lot, the Pocket Park, and the parking lot at the WRJ Co-op. The Selectboard will have to approve of the location. If members have other ideas for locations for charging stations, please connect with Geoff.

QLLA in October: QLLA contacted Martha about HEC hosting a discussion about the state's energy goals and weatherization. The date is Thursday, October 11 from 4:30 to 6:00. The proposed format is to have

short presentations from Geoff, a GMP representative, and Efficiency Vermont. The education work group will take this on.

Saturday, August 11 is scheduled for Warm Up Quechee. HEC should mention the October event at the Warm Up event. The movie Tomorrow is scheduled for October 13 in Quechee. Niki will continue to do much of the work around the movie. This will be open to all residents. Alan is not able to host a showing of the movie. Commissioners are advised to see it on their own.

Education work group: Work is centered on Warm Up Quechee, which will take place on Saturday, August 11 from 10 to 11:30 with one presentation at 10:30. The group is creating a postcard, and keeping in mind “lessons learned” from Warm Up Wilder. The same contractors have been invited. All of the people who signed up for a walk through at Warm Up Wilder have completed a walk through, and Frans got a few jobs signed as a result.

CEP work group: The next steps were discussed earlier in the Transportation and Energy Public Forum.

July Meeting: Both work groups decided they can proceed and do not need a July meeting. Thus, the next HEC meeting will be Thursday, August 23.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12.

Respectfully submitted, Lynn Bohi. Clerk