

**DRAFT**

**Hartford Energy Commission Minutes**

**October 24, 2019**

Present: Erik Krauss, Lynn Bohi, Fred Randall, Niki Thran (phone); Ana Mejia, Vital Communities; Alan Johnson, Selectboard liaison; Geoff Martin, staff; John Alvin, guest

Erik called the meeting to order at 6:32.

HEC members introduced themselves to our guest. John met Alan at the REV conference. John is a senior at VTC, majoring in renewable energy.

**Additions to the agenda:** feebate, Efficiency Vermont letter, VTDigger article, net-zero open house, and CROH

**Minutes:** After corrections, Niki moved and Fred seconded that the minutes pass as amended. The motion passed.

**Vital Communities Mobil Home Program:** Ana passed out a sheet outlining steps to follow, a timeline, and who might be responsible for each step. Vital Communities (VC) would like HEC's help with recruiting participants and volunteers, participating in a volunteer training session, and later, evaluating the program. VC is creating a brochure of existing helpful programs which includes income guidelines. The goal of the brochure is to let people know whether or not they qualify for each program, and how they can sign up. Volunteers to get trained and to visit the chosen park(s): Fred, Niki, Geoff, Erik, and Lynn. The training will probably be in early December and take two hours. Part of our outreach may be to volunteer with COVER and then talk to people about how easy it is. Another way to find possible volunteers: [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org), Habitat for Humanity, VTC, King Arthur, and Hypertherm.

7:14 Niki left the meeting, thus the meeting adjourned due to lack of a quorum.

**Transportation Work Group:** The work group is looking for places to have mini-Park and Rides along Route 4 and asked for suggestions. Bar Harbor Bank and Waterman Hill corner were two ideas.

**Building Integrity Work Group:** The work group worked on the monthly article and has a meeting with the Planning Commission on October 28 to discuss a net zero new construction requirement. A few stakeholders have committed to attending a meeting on the net zero new construction requirement on November 20.

**Button Up:** The event will be held on November 1, which is First Friday, at Open Door at 6:00 pm. HEC members are asked to bring laptops to help people sign up for a free home energy walk through. Hartford residents may sign up for a walk through during the month of November. All walk throughs, performed by Efficiency Vermont, will be completed between December 9 – January 24.

**Municipal Updates:** Since Geoff has been on family leave for most of the month, the only report is from Vermont Law School. Kevin Jones is developing a project to encourage the adoption of electric vehicles (EV). He wants to work with Hartford on this.

**Other business:**

**VECAN:** Will be December 7. Brenda will register those who attend. Thus far, attendees will be: Erik, Ana, Geoff, and Lynn. Erik will ask Martha, Ryan and Niki if they would like to attend.

**REV conference:** Alan and John attended. Highlights:

- Net Zero (NZ) cities include Burlington, which hopes to be NZ by 2030 partly by using the McNeil plant burning wood chips to heat the downtown district;
- Sewer source heat pumps are being designed. HEC discussed pond source and treatment plant source heat pumps;
- A Canadian company has developed thermal storage built into heat pumps. They would like to expand into Vermont and are having conversations with power companies. The storage capacity is 50,000 BTU, which might be suitable for Bugbee.
- There are some new tools to help towns get to NZ;
- The EAN VT Energy Dashboard is being updated;
- GMP and Dynamic Organics announced the Flexible Load Management Pilot Program that Hartford is involved in;
- Bob The Green Guy made videos of many of the sessions.

**Resilient Hartford:** They will be concentrating on re-purposing parks and growing food. They are sponsoring an Extreme Event on a Monday, November 18 at 6:30 at Hartford High School. All HEC members will receive an invitation.

**Fee-bate:** There was a legislative study about a fee-bate.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Legislative-Reports/Feebate-Study-Report-10-15-2019-Final.pdf>

**VT Digger and EAN Workshop:** The two organizations are sponsoring a workshop in St. Johnsbury about why and how to weatherize your home.

**HEC Open Position:** John may apply to join HEC. Niki also has identified a person who may be interested.

November will feature election of officers.

December will highlight a review of work group progress toward the goals set by the group at the beginning of the year.

8:08 discussion concluded.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi, Clerk