

Draft Harford Energy Committee Minutes
December 20, 2018

Present: Erik Krauss, Lynn Bohi, Martha McDaniel, Ryan Scelza; Alan Johnson, Selectboard liaison; Geoff Martin, staff; Paige Greenfield, guest.

Martha called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Members introduced themselves to Paige and Paige outlined her background.

Peggy Allen has resigned from HEC due to family and farm obligations.

Minutes: A few typos were noted. Erik moved and Ryan seconded that the November minutes pass as amended. The motion passed. Martha noticed on the town website that some of the minutes early this year are still labeled as draft. Geoff will check on this.

Calendar for 2019: HEC will meet on the fourth Thursday of the month, except for November and December, when the meeting will be on the third Thursday. In most cases, the time will be 6:30 to 8:00. Lynn moved and Erik seconded that the calendar pass as discussed. The motion passed. Geoff will look into moving the meetings to the third floor.

VECAN additional thoughts: Burlington Mayor Weinberger's announcement of the Mayors' Carbon Fee Group received little media coverage. HEC discussed whether or not towns with other governance structures (i.e. Town Manager with a Selectboard) could join the group. The commission agreed to explore this further. The Mayors' group has a website with general information and contact information. There is another group forming to regionally cap and trade carbon emissions in the transportation sector. They will take the next year to put together details on how it might work. Hartford could try to promote the carbon fee idea or could ask a larger statewide organization to promote carbon reduction. VNRC and EAN came to mind. Erik will connect with the Mayors' group via the website or via Mayor Weinberg's website.

Button Up results: Statewide, Efficiency Vermont (EVT) made their goal of 500 sign ups by having a final total of 660. Hartford has 52 sign ups, which is the fourth highest number out of the 17 participating towns. HEC will need to follow with up phone calls to answer questions and to encourage people to do at least some of the work. The timeframe for calls is after the household has had the proposal for four weeks. Geoff and Lynn will make the bulk of the calls, and if necessary, Erik will make some. EVT will be sending a progress spreadsheet to Geoff every two weeks.

COVER recently sponsored a weatherization project in a mobile home which Erik participated in. COVER uses air seal window kits using four mil plastic which can be re-used for several years. In addition to windows, they also foamed holes and worked on the door latch, and installed outlet gaskets. They performed blower tests before and after the work which showed a 400 cfm decrease. This is a large decrease for a smaller home. COVER is considering skirting underneath the home. Erik felt it was good work, and a good temporary fix.

Municipal projects:

- **Olcott Falls:** Geoff met with EVT, Vital Communities, COVER, and the Vermont Housing Foundation about an energy efficiency campaign at the Park. EVT will send an announcement to residents about a door to door part of the campaign. The campaign involves a free appliance swap out for energy hog appliances, a weatherize service from SEVCA, and a future event to assist residents with signing up for fuel assistance. COVER has volunteered to weatherize ten homes. Residents may sign up for the campaign at their door. EVT will try to have light bulbs, low flow shower heads, and maybe insulated skirting. The group also discussed Vermod homes and a state program to replace old trailers as well as receive a down payment on a Vermod home. Information from a year ago on the swap program is a mortgage of \$413 a month for income qualified residents. We will need four volunteers for the door to door campaign. People will be in two member teams to ask basic questions about energy use and sources of energy. Additionally, volunteers are needed for the event and follow up calls about certain programs. The solar array is under construction. All park residents will get some credits. SEVCA is planning a community solar array for low income people somewhere in Windham or Windsor Counties.
- **Town Manager vehicle:** Since there was only one bid, it is back out to bid. Geoff was encouraged to call local auto dealers.
- **Charging stations:** GMP is offering a pilot program for Hartford, which will be the same offer for the municipality as they provide for residential customers. In addition, the UVAC applied for funding for a charging station at their parking lot, for two stations with four ports.
- **Bugbee roof:** the grant application has been submitted. It is for a roof only, no insulation.

Education work group: The Warm Up West Hartford event should wait until all the Button Up projects have been dealt with. The contractors currently have no time for more work.

Town Plan Work Group: The group has received feedback from Matt and Lori, Dee Gish (Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission), the master plan steering committee, Ryan, and Martha. The design is visually appealing. Remaining questions involve goals to prioritize, how to frame the work plan, and who is the audience. Another unknown is the timeframe, which is defined by the Planning Department. EAN will soon produce an energy atlas with verified data on a town by town basis. This probably will have much of the data sought in the plan. Also discussed was a "how to and where to look" resource for citizens. This would help all Vermonters. Perhaps, VNRC and Ian Hitchcock could be approached about this.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi, Clerk