

CAST meeting September 14, 2022

Present: Dana Clauson, Laura Simon, Carolyn Hooper, John Reid, Lee Michaelides, Ashton Todd, Jesse Pollard

Minutes: Members should look at the website for previous month's meeting. Minutes for August meeting were not voted on because no one had read them. Will vote on August minutes at the Sept 21 meeting.

Planning Commission Update: John will brief the Planning Commission on possible zoning changes that might occur because of the Climate Action Plan.

Solar Installations: Jesse reported on efforts to draft RFPs for solar systems on town-owned parcel. This work will be augmented by energy-law students on Vermont Law School. John asked who is in charge of making sure the Climate Action Plan is implemented. The administrative function belongs to the Selectboard, but it doesn't have the time to do the work. Dana explained that he reports directly to the Town Manager, so that approvals (and such) don't have to go to another department. Dana is quarterbacking the implementation of the plan.

Budget: Dana will have a limited budget in 2024. He will have input on other department budgets related to climate action.

Conservation Commission: Lee reported that the HCC voted to focus on Chapter 7 (Green Space) of the Climate Action Plan. At future meetings the HCC will decide on projects that allow them to:

- A) Partner with other groups with related missions such as the Tree Board.
- B) Leverage the outreach these other groups have in expertise, public education and recruitment of volunteers for projects

Laura and Carolyn had suggestions among their contacts that might be interested in helping or getting help from the HCC such as the Abenaki Gardens Project.

Hartford Committee on Racial Equity and Inclusion (HCOREI) submitted its list of priorities.

Wilder 1 Solar Installation: Green Mountain Power issued an RFP and selected Wilder 1 for a 4 megawatt project off of Rt. 14. The company is currently working on a visual assessment. After that report is done a special Planning Commission Meeting will be warned. Dana suggested CAST members review the energy section of the Hartford Master Plan. (Be sure to read the most recent 2019 update. Use this link https://cms5.revize.com/revize/hartfordvt/Document_center/Services/Planning%20&%20Development/2019%20Town%20Plan%20Revision/2019%20Hartford%20Town%20Plan%20FINAL_202003061214360214.pdf)

CAST Projects for 2023: Dana asks members to submit ideas at the next meeting for project CAST might prioritize in 2023. Examples include Solarize Hartford, Trail Blazers, Outreach and Education about the CAP, Window Dressers.

UNH Carbon Accounting Project: Students and faculty from UNH will make a presentation about the project at the upcoming meeting.

Next Meeting: September 21, 2022 @ 5 PM