

Draft Hartford Energy Commission minutes  
May 27, 2021 via Teams

Present: Lynn Bohi, Ashton Todd, Molly Smith: Geoff Martin, Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission; Erik Krauss, CAC liaison; Dan Frazer, Selectboard; Matt Osborn. Staff

Molly, at 5:03pm, called the meeting to order by reading the Act 92 statement and calling the roll.

Minutes: Due to a lack of quorum, the April minutes were postponed after noting needed changes.

TRORC Energy report card: Tori Littlefield and Geoff Martin developed the report. It was released now because this is half way thru the energy plan. Hartford received a C+ overall, broken down into Thermal B+, Electric Energy use A, Transportation D, and Renewable Energy Generation D. The grades were on a curve.

- Thermal measures heat pumps and weatherization completed in Hartford
- Electric energy's goal is a reduction of 9.9% by 2050—this conflicts with other goals because heat pumps and electric cars will increase electricity usage. Oil use is not tracked because it is not regulated.
- Transportation measures only fully electric cars. Hartford needs to add 449 EVs by 2025
- Renewable generation includes solar, wind, hydro and biomass. This is measured by both the number of each kind and the generation capability

The grades are misleading and probably will be removed for the next report. It is likely that the next report will use pie charts.

Energy Coordinator: Lori said the job description is on Tracy's desk and should be posted soon.

Significant Activity Updates

- Climate Advisory Committee: the draft plan was released May 18 for the Climate Action Team to react. June 4 the website will open for public review until June 24. A link should be availed to put in the HEC Herald. Tentatively, the draft plan will be presented to the Selectboard on June 29, with a second meeting about a month later. The plan should be approved by the end of August.
- Building Integrity: Molly and the head of Window Dressers discussed Hartford hosting an event. Given HEC's low numbers, it was decided it is not practical for Hartford to host a full build this year. However, there are possible partner towns Norwich, Hartland and Windsor. Norwich is partnering with Hanover, but Norwich is willing to save 5 spaces for Hartford. Hanover separately said they are willing to have spaces for Hartford residents who work in Hanover. HEC members favored volunteering with Norwich and Hanover. Those who will work are: Molly, Erik, Lynn, Ashton, maybe Sally. Perhaps a student from the HACTC Building Trades program would like to help. HEC will take this year to build interest in the program and look forward to a full build next year.

- Transportation: the webinar on EVs helped and e-bike user to buy a hybrid car.

HEC Herald: June possible articles were discussed. June is pride month and home owner month. Juneteenth is also coming. For home owner month, given the current frenzy of home buying, perhaps an article about what new home owners need to know about efficiency and sustainability. There is an information sheet that is mandatory in N.H. but not Vermont that contains much information about the house. Lynn and Molly will work on this article. Lynn wrote one about cleaning heat pumps and one about water heating by heat pumps. The CAC plan link should be included with a mention of the timeline for comments. Molly will tie Jueteenth and Pride month to energy use in an article. Ashton will write about EV, with a link to the webinar. Deadline is Wednesday, June 16.

Recruitment: Martha has resigned as of today. She may return after there is a new Energy Coordinator. Fred has graduated and moved out of state. Thus, HEC has three openings. Carolyn Frey Hooper was planning to attend tonight, but had an emergency. An e-bike loan person expressed interest to Martha. His name may be Brendan Scribner or something similar. Molly will ask Martha for the name. Members were asked to reach out to friends. Having a student member was explored. It sometimes helps for prospects to attend as a guest before formally joining.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi, Clerk