

Hartford Energy Commission minutes
February, 24, 2022

Present in person: Jesse Pollard, Molly Smith. Lynn Bohi: Dana Clawson, staff

Present virtually: Ashton Todd: Anna Gunther, Meg McLaurey, Cici Wendling, and Lucas Gilbert, guests

Molly called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

Minutes: Molly moved the January minutes be approved as presented. Jesse seconded. The motion passed.

Bylaws: To lessen the issue of not having a quorum, it has been suggested that non-residents be allowed membership. It was suggested that the majority of members be residents and the remainder may be filled by non-residents. Can or should priority be given to residents. Molly moved and Jesse seconded that HEC change to bylaws to allow non-residents, given that the majority of members will be residents and that residents will be given priority. The motion passed. Next step is to re-write the bylaws to present to the Selectboard.

Drive Electric: This is a Norwich, Sharon, Thetford, and Hartford event. It is from 10 to 1:00 Saturday, April 23 at Marion Cross School and St. Barnabas Church, both in Norwich. There will be a variety of brands of cars and bicycles and their owners to talk to those who attend. We should ask Hartford EV owners to attend. It will be continue to be advertised in the listserv and HEC Herald. Meg and Cici will create graphics to help advertise.

Building Integrity and Efficiency: The Wilder Library rental agreement was passed around. Lynn will get a copy to Dana on Monday. Outreach is happening now for people to sign up via email, and listserv.

Transportation: The Drive Electric campaign is above. The EV guide is ready for the printer. It should be ready to hand out at the EV event and for Hartford's new website.

Energy and Land Use: Norwich Solar is proposing to build a 500 KW solar array on a steep and wooded site on two or three acres of a thirty acre parcel on Christian Street. To do so, they need it to be a "preferred site". All on the ground solar arrays over 150 kWh need a permit and must be on preferred sites. The Planning Commission, Selectboard and Regional Commission all need to declare it is a preferred site. HEC has been asked to comment to the Planning Commission.

Dana has set a meeting on Monday, March 7 from 6:00 to 7:00pm with HEC, Norwich Solar and the Planning Commission. Norwich Solar has said it will leave the remainder of the parcel open for residents to use. Is this on paper? What is the effect on property taxes? There is no inventory of what is on the parcel. There is no current zoning for solar. Will they use local or union labor? Perhaps HEC will need to create a checklist for future solar projects. Can this be set up as a coop? What is the assessed value of the parcel now? It is a good opportunity for renewable energy, despite all the questions. Can the town buy the array? Jesse and Dana will talk with Norwich Solar.

HEC Herald: Drive Electric and Window Dressers will be articles. It is International Women's Day and Ashton will write about women in Science. It is National Literacy Month also. Molly will define energy terms.

Welcome Wagon: Jesse, being new, was visited by the Welcome Wagon. They asked if the HEC is interested in being involved. Anna said Vital Communities is the new hub, or management, for Welcome Wagon. Ashton and Molly said they would be involved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi, Clerk