

Draft Hartford Energy Commission minutes  
August 25, 2022

Present in person: Lynn Bohi; Esme Cole, guest, Dana Clawson, staff

Present virtually: Molly Smith, Ashton Todd, Shylo Grace; Henry Meyer, Remington Nevin, Cece Wendling, guests

Molly called the meeting to order at 5:08.

Guests were asked to introduce themselves. Henry will be making a presentation, Esme was inspired when she attended last month, and Remington is listening

Minutes: Remington does not work at the VA. Molly moved to accept the minutes as amended. Ashton seconded and the motion passed.

Updates: The FOIA request was sent to the Town lawyer who established that open meeting law was not violated. The Selectboard voted to rescind the acceptance of HEC bylaws change because there is a conflict with the Town Charter. Bylaws say HEC has 5 to 7 members and charter says 7. Molly, Dana and Lynn will work on wording the bylaws to remove any other conflicts. HEC will vote on new bylaws in September and Molly will take the new bylaws in October to the Selectboard.

CAST: Dana made a presentation to the Selectboard on CAP. The board dissolved the Climate Advisory Committee, since CAST is doing the work now. CAST will now be a subcommittee of HEC. The Selectboard is discussing a liaison for CAST and HEC. Does HEC need a formal liaison from CAST even though Molly, Ashton and Jesse attend when they are able to?

VLS webinar on decarbonization assistance: There were three proposals, two from Hartford. The proposals topics were private use of public lands, search charters for climate friendliness, and to draft a proposal that rental properties have EV chargers.

Henry and solar: Energy basics: there are peaks loads and there are power plants to meet them. Hartford's grid is clean. Power is generated immediately. Time is important. Small power plants, 5 to 10KW, do not run full time. The Upper Valley has two problems with the grid: the large population and the old wires. There is quite a bit of solar, which is added in the daytime, but not much capacity. The area needs more substations and also a flexible load solution.

His plan is to start a new company. Is HEC the forum with which he should do this? He suggests distributive storage, large batteries, change gas uses to electric, and EVSE in a VPP program.

Questions and answers: why is each former initiative a different company? Because they need to be local and understandable.

Natural gas from the ISO is not carbon friendly. How can Vermont grid be clean? The Hartford sources are clean and different from some state sources.

Subcommittees:

Building Integrity and Energy:

- Window Dressers: Measuring appointments are being made. A pamphlet is being prepared for volunteers.
- Grid: a 4.1 MW solar system is being proposed. The Planning Commission is looking at it to make a comment for the PUC. It is a 15 acre project with no local control.

Transportation: The EV guide is being revised because the Federal Government passed new provisions that affect the guilder issues.

CAST: They made a presentation to the Selectboard on August 16.

Trailblazers: Shylo had another meeting and left about 5 minutes ago. Hartford's part is to raise \$20,000. The Vermont Council on Rural Development has a grant HEC could look into. In September, HEC will discuss setting up a subcommittee for Trailblazers. Perhaps the Climate Action Reserve Fund or ARRA funding could be a back up funding source if HEC does not raise enough with a future initiative.

HEC Herald: Move the discussion to September.

The meeting adjourned at 6:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohj, Clerk