

Hartford Energy Commission Special meeting minutes
December 8, 2022

Present in person: Jesse Pollard (HEC 2024), Molly Smith Dunn (HEC 2025); Dana Clawson, staff
Present Virtually; Ashton Todd (HEC 2023), Lynn Bohi (HEC 2024); guests Laura Simon, Anna Gunther

Jesse called the meeting to order at 5:06pm.

Announcements:

- VECAN starts on Saturday and has online workshops all week.
- HEC regular meeting is next week, December 15.

Subcommittees:

- Building and Energy Efficiency: none
- Transportation and Land Use: Wider One: At the Planning Commission last week, there was a comment about cutting 7 acres of trees and one neighbor who seemed in favor of the project. It also came out that the developer has heard of times when the Town approved a project and the PUC denied it. Reminder that comments should be tied to the Energy Chapter of the Town Master Plan. The project is on a large parcel zoned both IC and Rural residential. The project tried to stay out of the flood plain and also out of view of most people. It is on leased land from the Grays'. The power will go to GMP. The RECs will go to Massachusetts, since that is where the company is located. The trees will be chipped and used to stabilize against water runoff. There is no plan to have anything other than the solar panels in the project. Comments may be submitted up to 45 days after the plan is filed with the PUC, which is expected to be early January. The Town should identify parcels or zones which would be suggested for solar installations.

HEC will draft a comment recommending general support of this renewable project and that HEC would like to see it combine another use along with the panels. And prefer that the energy stay in this area.

- The school board would like to work with HEC.

Bylaws: Molly sent them to members last week. The changes were listed. Molly moved and Ashton seconded that the bylaw changes be accepted. The motion passed. Dana will ask for some time on the Selectboard agenda.

Solarize Hartford: Laura said having a work group organize this initiative would be helpful. HEC agreed. Laura had written a vision statement which she read. In general the workgroup would educate, promote and organize a kick off event. The kick off would include co-sponsors, energy saving ideas, and invite installers to talk about their products and how panels work. The work group needs a liaison.

Molly talked to Vermont Law and Graduate School. There could be students who could produce contracts and information sheets. Dartmouth students can work on outreach and awareness. Laura will

think about applying to become a HEC member and head this work group. Molly will head it for now. How often to meet was discussed. Laura will send a poll.

Coordinator report: Dana will be presenting solar information to the Selectboard on Tuesday, December 13 at approximately 7:35.

CAP priorities were postponed until more members are present.

The meeting adjourned at 5:53pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi. Clerk