

Hartford Energy Commission minutes
April 28, 2022

Present in person: Jesse Pollard, Lynn Bohi; Dana Clawson, staff

Present virtually: Molly Smith, Ashton Todd; Dan Fraser, Selectboard; Meg McLaurey, guest

Molly called the meeting to order at 5:04pm.

Agenda changes: Add CAST responsibilities and Selectboard May 17

Minutes: Ashton moved and Jesse seconded that the March minutes pass as presented. The motion passed.

Bylaws: Change them to say that non residents may be voting members. The language proposes that residents, people who own businesses in town, or own property be given priority. There may be legislation about this issue. Molly moved and Jesse seconded that the bylaws be amended as proposed. The motion passed.

Subcommittees

Building Integrity an Energy Efficiency: Lynn was at The Haven with a Norwich resident on Tuesday and they signed up many people. Linda Gray will add the names to the list. As of 5pm today, 159 inserts have been requested. The New England Grassroots grant reviewers would like to talk soon. The grant would help pay for low income people to participate. HEC is asking for \$5,200. There are many Vermont towns participating in Window Dressers. The White River Jct branch of the Hanover Food Coop has a food program for low income people and Dana has given them brochures.

Transportation:

- The Electric Vehicle (EV) expo was busy with many EVs on display and many people looking at the EVs.
- Thetford is planning an electric lawn and yard care expo on Saturday, May 21 from 10 to 1:00. HEC agreed to participate.
- The EV guide is very close to going to the publisher. It should be ready in May. HEC had agreed to help pay for publishing the guide. Costs have gone up and our outlay will probably be less and we will receive 200 copies.

CAST: They are talking to Town committees about their intersection with climate. They will write a letter to each committee. HEC will be responsible for Historic Preservation. How many HEC members will attend CAST meetings was discussed. Ashton will be the prime liaison with Jesse and Molly in that order.

Selectboard meeting: HEC has been invited to talk with the Selectboard about preferred siting for solar projects. Jesse will take the lead.

AmeriCorps for CAST issues: The question arose about who will manage all the CAST projects. AmeriCorps came to mind. The next round will be January 2023. Grant matching funds will be needed. The worker would begin in August of 2023. A description of the tasks will be important to develop. The Town may need staff to carry out some of the financial issues. Dana will look into the Town responsibilities.

Planning commission: They would like something written down that they can refer to about preferred siting for solar. Jesse will work on a 1 to 3 page guide.

Solar: the Town owns many properties which might be good for ground mounted solar which could be leased. Is it possible to write an RFP to build them and to get money back from them? Dana will talk to Tracy about this. VLS has a team which writes permits and contracts and Molly will request some time from them. Are there any large parking lots that could have an array?

HEC Herald: Jesse will write about geopolitics and energy. It is Asian and Pacific Island month which Molly will write something about. Molly will also write a wrap up about Drive Electric EV expo and the upcoming Thetford lawn care event. As always there will be Window Dressers and EV guide articles.

The meeting adjourned at 6:04m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi, Clerk