

Hartford Energy Commission minutes
May 26, 2022

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

Present remotely: Ashton Todd; Cici Wendling and Chuck Fenton, guests

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

April minutes: there was no quorum at this point.

Chuck Fenton from Hartland introduced the Trailblazers Green Energy training program. Vermont has many under used older housing. Chuck has spoken to COVER, SEVCA, and the Windham Windsor Housing Trust. All these organizations have money to weatherize, but not the staff to do the work. Hartland has no water and sewer, so can't build new large capacity housing.

Vermont Works for Women has a program to train women to work in the building trades. VT works for women will check with HACTC and ask if the program can be held there. They have held the program in Burlington and Rutland. They have trainers and will hold the program in the evening and weekends. There is a stipend for travel, child care and other needs of the students. There is no cost to the students. The program will serve 12 to 20 students, who will be ready to work in 2023. There is also after class skill development. They will also reimburse employers. Class would start in autumn and end before really cold winter. All this will cost \$30,000.

Can Hartland and Hartford work on this together and divide the costs 1/3 and 2/3, based on population and where the students will probably come from. Hartland is thinking about using ARPA funding for this. There may be workforce funding from Vermont. Perhaps Thetford, Woodstock, Sharon can be asked to join. Chuck thanked us for our time.

Discussion about how fund: white House funds for rural states, state workforce training, ARPA, builders and contractors, vital Communities, Mascoma Bank, COVER weatherization program has funding, sponsor a student, Climate Reserve fund, and grassroots grant. Dana will contact SEVCA. The timeframe would be better for us if it started later. HEC will discuss in July.

June meeting: Molly is not able to attend on June 23, and Jesse is not sure. Jesse moved to change the June meeting date to June 16. Molly seconded and the motion passed.

Subcommittees:

Building Integrity and Energy: Window Dressers; Dana attended the administrator's training meeting. The computer part looks easy to use. Lynn has been to the Haven three days and gave out many brochures, but signed up few.

Geoff Martin told Dana that the building code has no state inspector. It is a self reporting system.

Transportation: The guide is waiting for the Governor to sign or not sign a bill which has incentives for EVs.

CAST: Jesse and Molly went to the Selectboard meeting to talk about why HEC recommended that the Christian Street parcel be named a preferred site for solar. The board may consider a re-vote.

Town owned parcels for solar arrays: while the Town has met the net metering cap, someone can buy the energy from an array on Town land. There are some parcels with potential: the landfill array can be expanded, the fire department is converting a parcel in Quechee to a small fire station and would like to put solar on the roof, and another parcel on Christian Street. CAST is also talking about carports or parking lots with solar roofs. A one page handout will be coming soon.

HEC Herald: The articles will be previously prepared ones. Jesse moved and Lynn seconded that the June Herald be a small version. The motion passed.

CAP priorities: please send your list to Lynn by Tuesday, May 31. The topics to review are "Transportation and Land Use" and "Buildings and Energy".

The meeting adjourned at 6:04pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi, Clerk