

Hartford Energy Commission minutes
October 27, 2022

Present in person: Ashton Todd (2023), Shylo Grace (2025), Molly Smith (2022), Jesse Pollard (2023), Lynn Bohi (2024); Dana Clawson, staff

Present virtually: Esme Cole, guest

Molly called the meeting to order at 5:00 by reading the open meeting law regarding public comment

Additions to the agenda: CAP, Google Earth, Anna Gunther

Minutes: Molly moved the September minutes be accepted as presented. Jesse seconded and the motion passed.

Updates:

- The Town Manager is leaving; how does this effect HEVC work, especially Trailblazers. We will proceed carefully.
- Esme has applied to become a member
- Bylaw changes have been postponed

Trunk or Treat is Saturday from 4-6pm. Molly created a Halloween themed weatherization handout. We will use the Town leaf as the HEC car. Volunteers are: Dana, Esme, Jesse, Molly, Lynn. Please wear a costume.

Laura Simon solarize: Laura is examining a solar campaign for Hartford. She is looking for partner groups for unknown work. She will talk to Vital Communities about the one VC organized. HEC will support but not manage.

Elections: Elections for Chair, Vice Chair, and Clerk are in November. Please think about taking a position. Molly would prefer to step away from Chair. Bring ideas next month.

The budget is due October 31. Dana talked with Tracy and it will remain stable.

The Town Plan is to be examined every five years. It is time. The Energy chapter is chapter 10. Town Plans are required by state law. The CAP is not required. Thus, the plan has more weight when outside entities looks at proposals.

Subcommittees:

- Building Integrity and Energy: There are orders for 188 inserts for 31 customers. Dana has the Wilder Club and Library key on his wall. Drills (10) are needed. Some people who tried to sign up for H&H have mistakenly gotten signed up for Sutton.
- CAST: There are Climate Action funds. Dana requested some of the funding be used for a Hybrid air source water heater at Bugbee and for flexible load management software for the Town Hall HVAC system. Replacing the hot water heater at Bugbee would allow the oil boiler to

be shut down and get Bugbee off of oil. The flexible load management software will give Town Hall better control over its HVAC system and allow Town Hall to lower its energy use during times of peak demand. Transitioning buildings from fossil fuel to electric and helping build grid resiliency are both in line with the Town's Climate Action Plan. Molly moved and Jesse seconded that Climate Action reserve funds be used for these two purposes. The motion passed. Efficiency Vermont will rebate Hartford \$12,500.

- Trailblazers: There is no contract yet. Shylo and Chuck F from Hartland have not connected, despite Shylo's efforts. Trailblazers is willing to be HEC's fiscal agent. When we raise funds, the money will be sent to Trailblazers. The Vermont Council on Rural Development grant was approved for \$4000. Hartford needs an MOU from Hartland. Other towns may want to buy in to the program. Molly will talk to Norwich, Thetford and Woodstock. The new Chair should try to be on the December Selectboard agenda to discuss ARPA funding. Dana will draft an MOU. Trailblazers will not be ready for us until summer or fall 2023.

Wilder Solar: This is a 4MW proposal on 15 acres by a private developer. The view shed information has been received. Many trees will be cut for the project. Dana will meet with the Planning Commission (PC) on Tuesday, and the PC will probably want HEC to write a letter to the PUC with HEC thoughts. The HEC letter should apply to the Town Plan only, but could also mention that agricultural and educational uses are still possible. Jesse will look into this.

Vermont Law and Graduate School: They are writing a guidebook regarding "evaluation of RFPs" for HEC. They will attend the November meeting. HEC is to review the document and evaluate it to see if it meets HEC's needs.

HEC Herald: January will be the next HEC Heard.

AmeriCorps volunteer: The next round starts in February. This will have to wait.

Google Earth: Download the program to open KMZ or KML files.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi, Clerk

Next meeting: November 17: VLGS. CAP priorities