

LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES-FINAL

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the meeting was held virtually via MS Teams

May 21, 2020

3:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Clifton Below (Chair, Council Representative), Greg Ames (Vice-Chair) Joan Monroe (Planning Board Representative), Jon Chaffee, Woody Rothe, Meghan Butts, Gene Homicki (alternate)

STAFF PRESENT: Tad Montgomery, Rebecca Owens

GUESTS PRESENT: None

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Clifton Below at 3:12 PM. Clifton appointed Gene Homicki to fill the vacant LHS student representative position.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Woody moved to accept the 2/20/2020 minutes as presented; Meghan seconded.
Approved unanimously, with corrections, by roll call vote.

UPDATES & ISSUES IN ONGOING PROJECTS:

- **EV Subcommittee & PUC IR 20-004 EV Charging Rates**
The EV Subcommittee met last week. We are moving forward with Electrify America; Tad is assisting with the effort as needed. Their final deadline for completion is Dec 2021. Tad has had several conversations with a Liberty Utilities Engineer who is concerned that it may be difficult to get permission from NH DOT to run power lines over the railroad right of way. The engineer is concerned that this may cause significant project delays. Clifton suggests that Electrify America should contact Liberty and see if the wires can be routed differently. Tad has several documents that need to be reviewed for the project but does not have the time. In particular, Electrify America is hoping to find some sort of settlement agreement regarding operations and maintenance on the site.
- **City Solar Phase 1 and Phase 2**
Clifton and Tad have had conversations with potential investors interested in funding Phase 2 solar projects. A Solar Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for 10am Friday, May 29th.
- **LED Streetlight Conversion Project – DE 19-064 & DE 19-187**
No significant changes from last month; settlement discussions have not been finalized, so Clifton cannot discuss publicly at this time. Settlement should be filed in the next few

days, with a public hearing within a couple of weeks. Tad to start looking into the ~30 or so discrepancies around streetlight inventory (Liberty's inventory report vs Lebanon's inventory). Jim has asked Tad to have the RFP ready to release by June 23rd.

- **Lebanon Community Power (LCP) & CPNH**

At its last meeting, the Municipal Aggregation Subcommittee discussed launching Lebanon Community Power on an opt-in basis as a real-time pricing pilot (vs opt-out with fixed pricing and a real-time option, as originally discussed). The Committee further discussed how to subcontract out billing and other logistics of a pilot. We should probably notify rate payers to allow them to opt-in. Tad will be meeting with Urban Sustainability Network's consulting group to discuss marketing ideas. Clifton called Freedom Energy Logistics to discuss moving the City back to real-time pricing and was told that it should be cost effective to move to real-time pricing through the fall, especially with current low electric demand. However, natural gas pricing may be volatile this winter and pricing is unknown at this point. Recent low energy demand has resulted in large stockpiles of natural gas, followed by the shutdown of many oil and gas wells. These two competing supply factors (large stockpiles/low production), combined with yet unknown winter temperatures, make it difficult to predict winter natural gas and electricity prices, even with the current lower electric demand. A smaller scale pilot may reduce the bad debt risk discussed earlier. Clifton and Freedom Energy Logistics discussed using First Point Power as a real-time supplier for the pilot. (FPP is the City's current real-time power supplier for the water treatment and wastewater accounts). Clifton also mentioned that Community Power NH is moving forward (see Municipal Aggregation Subcommittee minutes).

- **Other Energy & Facilities Manager Updates.**

No further updates from Tad. Clifton mentioned there may be money in the City Hall renovation budget to cover the cost of insulating the Opera House walls. This is a good time to do it, since there are no performances scheduled at this time. Tad mentioned that Resilient Buildings Group will be doing a commissioning of the HVAC system at City Hall.

POSSIBLE GENERIC ENERGY & CLIMATE POLICY for NHMA

Clifton presented his proposed Draft NHMA Policy on Climate and Sustainability, below. The Committee discussed and edited the specific wordings. ***Woody moved that LEAC recommend to the City Council that it propose the following Energy, Climate, and Sustainability policy to NHMA. Gene seconded. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.***

Energy, Climate, and Sustainability

NHMA supports legislation and state policies that preserve and enhance municipal energy, climate and sustainability planning, policies, and actions for their communities. In particular NHMA supports the ability of municipalities to

enact measures that promote local energy and land use systems that: are both economically and environmentally sustainable over the long-term, protect and preserve local natural resources and public infrastructure, build community resilience, and foster adaptation to climate change and mitigate its risks. NHMA encourages policies that support customer and community choice in energy supply and use competitive market-based mechanisms to promote cost effectiveness, sustainability, and innovation.

DISCUSS POSSIBLE CITY BUILDING CODES UPDATE TO LATEST VERSION

Woody has talked with Mark Goodwin and Rebecca Owens about the possibility of automatically updating City building codes to the latest IECC energy conservation codes. Rebecca reported that the planning department is looking into what would be necessary to implement this, what type of buildings would be impacted, etc. Clifton questioned whether we could automatically update to the entire International Building Code (IBC) vs just the International Energy Conservation Codes (IECC). Rebecca mentioned that some communities have had issues with this type of policy and have had to do special overrides/exemptions, etc. for community-specific issues. Possibly consider automatic adoption with procedure for local updates as needed.

OTHER & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Clifton reported that at the May 6th City Council meeting, the Council unanimously approved exempting battery storage systems (both with and without solar) from property taxes.

REPORTS & NOTICES of energy related Conferences, Webinars, & Events

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

NEXT MEETING:

Scheduled for Thursday, June 18th at 3pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Meghan to adjourn the meeting at 4:44 PM. The motion was seconded by Woody. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Gregory Ames