

LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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

August 20, 2020

4:00 PM

FINAL

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Tad Montgomery

GUESTS PRESENT: None

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Clifton Below at 4:05 PM. Clifton appointed Gene Homicki to fill the absent Lebanon High School representative.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Joan moved to accept the 7/16/2020 minutes as presented; Meghan seconded.
Approved unanimously, with minor corrections, by roll call vote.

UPDATES & ISSUES IN ONGOING PROJECTS:

- **EV Subcommittee**

Meghan mentioned that Electrify America has decided to cancel the DC Fast Charging project on Taylor Street, near the head of the Rail Trail/CCBA due to NH DoT's inability to provide necessary documentation by EA's internal deadlines. Tad mentioned that Councilor Sykes plans to have a conversation with the DoT Commissioner about another matter and will raise our concerns.

The subcommittee continued to discuss the possibility of installing Level 2 chargers, and moved that it recommend that LEAC recommend to the City Council that Lebanon investigate further the possibility of installing Level 2 chargers for public use at Kilton Liberty, Hanover Street Mall, Colburn Park/Green, Court Street parking, Lower Taylor Street lot, or the Airport, and to get Council input/consensus on installation of public Level 2 chargers.

Joan moved that LEAC recommend to the City Council that we investigate further the possibility of installing Level 2 chargers for public use at Kilton Liberty, Hanover Street

Mall, Colburn Park/Green, Court Street parking, Lower Taylor Street lot, the Airport, or other locations. Gene seconded. Passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Tad submitted a Right-To-Know request for the NH DoT documents requested by Electrify America. The 30-day response deadline is 9/11/2020.

Clifton mentioned the PUC came out with an order in proceeding IR 2000-004, which adopted recommendations for EV charging rates, including 3-part time-of-use rates and support for commercial and industrial ratepayers.

- **City Solar**

Radio frequency interference (RFI) from the solar optimizers used in the Landfill maintenance building, Police Station, and DPW garage solar systems are impacting communications antennas at these sites. Panels have been temporarily removed from the Landfill maintenance building and the Police Station until the issues are resolved. After much research, it has been determined that the solution is to switch to microinverters or a string inverter without optimizers. Work on the solution is ongoing.

- **LED Streetlight Conversion Project**

The City has received several proposals; the best priced package is well under budget. Tad has been checking the vendors' references. Tad is waiting to hear back from Liberty on the list of streetlights proposed for removal.

- **City's Experience with Real Time Pricing (RTP) - Woody & Tad**

Woody put together a spreadsheet of power usage and solar production for several City sites – Water Treatment, Wastewater Treatment, City Hall, Police, and two pumping stations (Reservoir Rd and Wolf Rd). The Committee discussed the energy and cost savings through solar at these sites, as well as the savings from real time pricing at the two G-1 electric accounts (water treatment/wastewater treatment).

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

Clifton gave an update on CPNH. The City has issued an RFQ for legal counsel to support LCP and other municipal aggregation programs. Six proposals were received and three firms were interviewed. The City is negotiating with one for engagement. CPNH has started two groups – organizing and governance – to continue moving the process forward. The plan is to get enough cities and towns involved to reach “critical mass” and have CPNH be self-sufficient.

- **PUC Rulemaking for Community Power Aggregation**

The PUC staff has drafted rules for CPA's in NH. Negotiations and discussions are ongoing at the State level.

- **PUC Grid Mod & Data Dockets**

PUC has suspended its Grid Mod order due to Eversource's pending motion for reconsideration. The Consumer Advocate and the City have filed to oppose. Focus has shifted to the Data Platform docket. Direct testimony has been filed and discussions continue at the State level.

- **Energy and Facilities Manager Updates** – See attached EFM report
Tad discussed some training he has been doing with the Urban Sustainability Director's Network and presented a forensic map of the progress of LCP/CPNH. Tad mentioned that the City was approached by Dean Berg who is working on a cell phone app to help people reduce their carbon footprint. Tad is connecting him with Vital Communities, VT Law School, local Co-ops, Sustainable Hanover, Sustainable Lebanon, and others in hopes of starting an Upper Valley pilot. Hanover and Norwich are starting a Window Dressers campaign (window inserts/sealing via a temporary "internal storm window"). Hanover has started round 3 of their Solarize program, with 40 houses signed up. Funding to insulate the interior walls of the Opera House during City Hall renovations has been approved. Tad will be analyzing thermal store cost/benefit. Tad is working to get a dedicated solar monitor installed in the waiting area of the City Clerk's office.

OTHER & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Clifton mentioned that he presented to the Development Regulation Subcommittee of the Planning Board about modifying the City's Site Plan Regulations to require that outdoor lighting be 3000K or warmer, and that the proposal was well received and had unanimous support. Greg spoke briefly about the Tesla Powerwalls that were installed under Liberty's Battery Pilot program. There was a brief discussion of the Landfill's gas to energy project; further discussion at the September meeting.

REPORTS & NOTICES OF ENERGY RELATED CONFERENCES, WEBINARS & EVENTS

None.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Committee plans to discuss Building Code and Procurement Policy at a future meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

Scheduled for Thursday, September 17th at 3:30pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Joan to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 PM. The motion was seconded by Woody. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Gregory Ames