

LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Council Chambers, City Hall

October 21, 2021

4:00 PM

FINAL

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Everett Hammond, Tad Montgomery

GUESTS PRESENT: None

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Clifton Below at 4:03 PM. Both Woody and Gene confirmed it was not practical for them to attend in person. Clifton appointed Gene Homicki to serve in place of the Lebanon High School student.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meghan moved to accept the 9/16/2021 minutes; Jon seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Lebanon Community Power, Community Power Coalition of NH & Related Legislative and Regulatory updates

1. CPCNH was incorporated on 10/1, consisting of 13 initial communities (Hanover Lebanon, Exeter, Nashua, Harrisville, Rye, Dover, Warner, Walpole, Newmarket, Plainfield, Enfield, and Durham) and Cheshire County. The member communities cover over 211,000 residents, or approx. 15% of the state population. Articles of Incorporation were filed with the Secretary of State and received expedited approval by state. Board was selected, with April Salas (Hanover) as Chair, Clifton Below (Lebanon) Vice Chair, Evan Oxenham (Plainfield) as Secretary, and Doria Brown (Nashua), At-Large. Pembroke voted to join last night and was accepted today. Lawyers are working "at risk" to develop documentation and will be paid after CPCNH starts receiving revenue. Next Thursday at 10am, Samuel Golding will present the draft business plan. Lebanon has received 2 anonymous donations to fund CPCNH (\$24k total, \$15k and \$9k), while Hanover has 1 anonymous donation of \$15k and an additional \$10k pledged.
2. Clifton mentioned that default supply electric rates are expected to rise this winter due to high world-wide demand for natural gas. Unitil supply rates went from <\$0.08/kWh to \$0.17/kWh

(supply only), with a total price/kWh increase of approximately 60%. NH Electric Co-Op total rate increase per kWh was only 17%, due to better risk management. Don Kreis, NH Consumer Advocate, wrote an article explaining why CPCNH is beneficial to consumers, as it can use risk management strategies that are similar to those used by the Co-Op, which are not available to investor-owned utilities.

3. Clifton gave an update on the limited 1-5MW power producer rates.
4. Clifton asked for a new chair after the first of the year, due to his commitments to CPCNH.
5. Meghan offered to have the RPC give a presentation on CPCNH.
6. Clifton discussed growth of Community Power Aggregations in CA and CT
7. Clifton mentioned that new group net metering laws allow municipalities to group net meter when not on default service and the possibility of Lebanon Community Power contracting with GMP to purchase power from the Mascoma River hydro dam.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss planning for development of a City Climate Action Plan:

Jon reported that Mark Goodwin has set up a google drive with several documents showing best practices used in other communities' climate action plans. Jon and Woody are reviewing and adding comments to a new document. South Portland, ME plan is an excellent example and gives detailed examples of greenhouse gas reduction by category vs generic overall community-wide targets. Jon and Woody will

pick suggested ideas to bring to the committee for future discussion. Clifton suggested moving these documents to the Committee SharePoint folder for better access to Committee members. Woody concurred. Jon and Woody will try to have an initial presentation to the committee next month.

Upcoming conference or webinars of note:

1. This Thursday at 10am there will be a meeting of the full board of CPCNH for presentation of proposed CPCNH draft business plan by Samuel Golding, followed by another meeting the following week.
2. Tad and Clifton attended the local energy solutions conference on 10/8. Tad mentioned the presentation on the data docket at the PUC was very good. Tad said Elizabeth Wilson's presentation was also very good.
3. Meghan mentioned the Upper Valley Adaptation Workgroup's fall program on 11/9 for planning for climate migration in the Upper Valley.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

1. Clifton gave an update on the Landfill Gas-to-Energy project. There is ongoing progress on interconnection study. He pointed out that the project could be a useful hedge against increased energy pricing.
2. Streetlights around Colburn Park have been updated. 6 of the decorative posts on the Mall have had light heads updated, with 4 more poles pending. Clifton noted that the new lights are much more dark-sky friendly, with less light spread upward.

3. Tad mentioned that a biodiesel manufacturer in Pittsfield, NH now has output available.
4. Meghan mentioned the EV subcommittee has not met recently, but should consider meeting. Lebanon is likely not eligible for VW settlement funding to install DC fast charging because of Electrify America stations installed in the Walmart parking lot last summer.
5. Tad spoke with a member of the selectboard in Peterborough who has installed EV charging stations in town with TIF financing. Tad will schedule a meeting with the EV subcommittee.
6. Shaun has asked Tad to meet with City Department heads who manage fleets to discuss planning for future municipal charging.
7. Solar was re-installed at the police station with microinverters, which resolved interference issues. Landfill garage solar pending, depending on LFGTE plans.
8. Jon and Clifton discussed funding programs for energy efficiency programs for low-to-moderate income multifamily housing.
9. Joan discussed concerns around not having a climate action plan, and what LEAC's next "big thing"/priorities should be. She also discussed sharing information and working with the Conservation Commission. There was further discussion of building code updates and having the City building codes update to latest version of International Building Codes (much like Fire Code does).

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None.

NEXT MEETING:

Next LEAC meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 16th at 4pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Greg to adjourn the meeting at 5:46 PM. The motion was seconded by Jon. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Gregory Ames