

LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Council Chambers, City Hall

January 20, 2022

4:00 PM

FINAL

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Meghan Butts

STAFF PRESENT: Everett Hammond, Tad Montgomery

GUESTS PRESENT: Sherry Boschert

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Clifton Below at 4:05 PM. Gene confirmed it was not practical for him to attend in person due to Covid precautions. Jon confirmed it was not practical for him to attend in person due to Covid precautions. Clifton appointed Gene Homicki to serve in place of the vacant.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2022:

Woody nominated Greg to serve as Chair. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Clifton nominated Jon to serve as Vice Chair. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Woody moved to accept the 12/16/2021 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. New London was admitted today as the newest (18th) member. 18% of the state's population is covered by member Towns at this point (not including Cheshire County).
2. The Department of Energy submitted a rulemaking petition to the PUC in October. An additional one was submitted by CPCNH. Clifton attended on behalf of the CPCNH. The DOE's proposal was rejected, but the CPCNH proposal was approved and will be used as the basis for rule-making proposal.

3. Cheshire county wants to do an opt-in county-wide plan. A (bipartisan) Senate bill was approved by the Senate Energy Committee that would eliminate the need to mail everyone in the community for an opt-in plan.
4. CPCNH has had good response to its RFI.
5. A compromise bill for restoring NH Saves funding to prior levels has been approved by the House and fast tracked through the Senate. It has wide support across all parties.
6. Clifton intervened on behalf of the City in Liberty's time-of-use rate plan for EV's. Liberty reported that time-of-use interval meters are on backorder. The City, Clean Energy NH, Conservation Law Foundation, and ChargePoint chose not to participate in the settlement because they did not feel it was an improvement on the existing regular tariff and did not motivate customers to shift their usage until off-peak, cheaper, cleaner times.

Update on Landfill Gas to Energy Project & Solar

1. Final proposal for the interconnect agreement has been submitted. This will have the added benefit of allowing a significant amount of additional distributed generation behind the substation.
2. No interference problems reported with the new solar microinverters at the Police Station. We are waiting for the completion of the interconnect agreement before solar reinstallation with microinverters at the landfill maintenance garage.
3. Everett discussed the possibility of installing a large ground mount solar on a City-owned 119.5 acre parcel south of the airport.

Continue discussion on updating building codes

1. A bill was introduced that makes would require state approval for any municipal deviation from the state codes. The Municipal Association of NH and Clean Energy NH were strongly opposed to it. There is a bipartisan bill that would update the state codes to close to the latest codes (2019?). Currently the City enforces and uses the State building codes. The City is already on the latest fire code.

Continue discussion on possibility of conducting a City-wide climate action planning process and GHG reduction plan

Clifton reported that the Council expressed an interest in conducting a GHG assessment and forming a climate action plan. Jon feels there is no staff capacity to carry this very far – the City may need to hire an outside consultant to move forward on this project. Jon and Woody are trying to determine the number of multi-family homes in the City, to determine viability for CPACE funding for clean energy retrofits. Jon suggests talking to Shaun to determine his level of interest. Some discussion of the Spencer Street housing project and energy efficiency plans.

NEW BUSINESS

City EV Infrastructure Overview

At the City Manager's direction, Tad led a meeting on future EV infrastructure at City buildings (pre-installing conduits, etc). Discussed L1/L2 charging, electric police cars, fire trucks, chainsaws,

lawnmowers, and a policy for City employees charging personal EV's at work using City charging stations. Tad reports that the Police and Fire Department have been investigating EV's, and that there are 3 US companies producing electric firetrucks. Shaun has said he is not looking to force departments to move to EV's, but that they should be ready for it to arrive at some point. Some discussion of the possibility of battery backup at City buildings. Greg had a deposit for an electric Ford F-150 but decided not to purchase the truck. He offered the reservation to the City to purchase the truck with this reservation (the City had already made a reservation, but they are much later in the queue).

Possible EV charging collaboration with Hanover

Tad sat in in the Hanover Energy Committee meeting to discuss ways to collaborate on funding opportunities with Hanover in future funding rounds. Tad has had conversations with ReVision Energy and Chargepoint about charging equipment installations and he has also had conversations with Julia Griffin and Peter Kulbacki about collaboration with the City. Tad was scheduled to meet with Shaun this past Monday but was out sick.

City position on HB 1635, SB 321, HB 1599

HB1635 and SB321 would improve the ability for Limited Producers (up to 5MW) to sell to other consumers and get credit for distribution offsets and reduction of capacity tags for exports. SB321 has strong bipartisan support in the Senate and addresses most of the concerns of the Senate's Science, Technology, and Energy study subcommittee. HB1635 is a similar earlier bill. Clifton gave an overview of HB1599 and explained why he feels the City should support it. Woody moved that LEAC support Clifton efforts on behalf of the City on HB1599. Jon seconded. Passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Recent and Upcoming conferences or webinars of note – Tad mentioned that the BuildingEnergy Boston conference by Northeast Sustainable Energy Association is being held virtually on February 27-March 1, 2022.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None.

NEXT MEETING:

Next LEAC meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 17th at 4pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Jon to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 PM. The motion was seconded by Greg. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Gregory Ames