



LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Council Chambers, City Hall

March 17th, 2022

4:00 PM

-- Final --

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Devin Wilkie (Council Alternate)

STAFF PRESENT: Everett Hammond, Tad Montgomery, Rebecca Owens – Planning Office

GUESTS PRESENT: None

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Greg Ames at 4:12 PM.

Greg Ames appointed Gene Homicki to fill the LEAC high school seat.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Woody moved to accept the January 2022 minutes; Jon seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

MASTER PLAN – ENERGY CHAPTER

Rebecca presented the Master Plan process. There was a robust discussion about whether or not the current Vision and Goals of Ch. 13 are adequate or need substantial modification, and to what extent the process should solicit broader citizen input. Sentiment leaned heavily toward making greenhouse gas remediation more prominent with stronger language and goals. Rebecca mentioned that Master Plan work will be a standing agenda item in LEAC meetings until the process is finished.

COMMUNITY POWER UPDATE

Asst. Mayor Below gave an update on the Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH). Walpole, Plainfield, and Rye have voted to approve electric aggregation plans for their communities, and Enfield is seriously considering it. CPCNH and other stakeholders are in a rulemaking process at the PUC with comments having been filed last Monday. Reply comments are due by 3/21/22. The current plan is to launch CPCNH programs next April 2023 with eight or nine communities participating.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Asst. Mayor Below gave an update on SB 321 which would allow direct sale of power to consumers, possibly through CPCNH. It was passed this week in the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee on a vote of 5:0. Clifton has proposed that Lebanon act as a pilot program through SB 321 with our landfill gas project's electricity and a small number of solar arrays to be included.

LANDFILL GAS-TO-ENERGY PROJECT

Clifton mentioned that the City Council has approved roughly \$180,000 to complete funding to develop the project. The construction contract has been signed, turbines are on order and the interconnect agreement has been approved by Liberty. Clifton gave a detailed description of issues with reinstalling the solar array back on the Landfill Maintenance Garage that are indirectly impacted by the LFGTE project (starting ~5:23 PM on the recording).

SUBCOMMITTEES

Greg Ames appointed new LEAC member Sherry Boschert the EV Subcommittee Chair, with himself, Clifton and Meghan Butts as members, with Meghan's membership contingent on City Clerk approval of alternates serving on Subcommittees. Sherry will schedule a meeting soon.

Brief update on EV's: Tad mention that the draft three-town RFI for public EV charger infrastructure is complete and has been sent to town/city managers for approval.

NEW BUSINESS

The City Council appointed Sherry Boschert a full LEAC member. Meghan Butts will be appointed to fill Sherry's vacant Alternate Member seat. Tad will ask the City Clerk if Alternates can serve on LEAC Subcommittees and ask the Deputy City Manager if the LEAC high school slot can be converted to a regular member. Clifton may also bring this up with the Council.

RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS

There was a discussion about renewable energy credits and whether the City should be buying them to claim sustainability or greenhouse gas reduction for the energy produced by our solar and landfill projects. Gene strongly advocated for this position, stating that by not owning and retiring the REC's the City is exporting the emissions elsewhere. Starting around 5:50 PM Clifton gave a long description of how REC's will impact the landfill gas project and the rollout of CPCNH in Lebanon. The Committee agreed to revisit the topic in the future.

OTHER NEWS

- Tad mentioned that the City Manager has given the go-ahead for a Phase 3 solar project. Clifton said that these projects might fit very well into the SB 321 pilot project if it passes. Phase 3 could include the following sites:
 - Airport – trackers to the north of the parking lot
 - Airport – roof mounted arrays on the T-hangars
 - Swimming Pool – trackers to double as shade for swimmers/visitors

- City Hall Roof – if we can figure out a way to do it cost effectively
- Storrs Hill – at the bottom of the slope to serve the Outing Club and perhaps more
- Valley Cemetery Building – another row along the bottom of the existing array to help it shed snow better
- Civic Fieldhouse – another row along the bottom of the existing array to help it shed snow better
- Prospect Hill Reservoir – an array of trackers
- Tad said that the DPW needs updates in its OneNote project tracking program on two LEAC-related projects, especially milestones and action items, and will reach out to members to get them:
 - Transactional Energy Program with Dartmouth professor Amro Farid. This project unsuccessfully sought funding from the NSF. In correspondence this week Dr. Farid asked if the City has interest in looking for other funding with him.
 - Municipal Aggregation – some info can be found here: LebanonNH.gov/LCP
- Tad mentioned that Marc Morgan and Rebecca Owens have been assisting him to draft language for a new City Procurement Policy that would guide staff on green or sustainable purchasing practices, aka Environmentally Preferable Procurement Policy (EPPP).
- Tad passed on that Human Services Director Lynne Goodwin had approached him to see if any LEAC members would be interested in volunteering to coordinate a [Window Dressers](#) program. This would be a volunteer run project to make custom fit interior storm windows out of simple wooden frames and plastic sheeting. Jon Chaffee mentioned that this has been considered before in LEAC and that the time requirements are substantial for the primary volunteer coordinator. LEAC members offered to raise this with Sustainable Lebanon.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- LEAC work priorities for 2022-2023.
- REC discussion.

NEXT MEETING

Is scheduled for Thursday, April 14th at 4 PM, location TBA but possibly in the DPW Conference Room.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Jon to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 PM. The motion was seconded by Woody. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tad Montgomery