

FINAL



LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Council Chambers, City Hall

August 18th, 2022

4:00 PM

- Final -

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Meghan Butts (alternate) Devin Wilkie (Council Alternate)

STAFF PRESENT: Tad Montgomery, Rebecca Owens – Planning Office (remote), Shaun Mulholland, Mark Goodwin

GUESTS PRESENT: none.

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Greg Ames at 4:04 PM. Greg Ames appointed Gene Homicki to fill the seat of the Lebanon High School student.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Sherry Boschert moved to accept the July 2022 LEAC meeting minutes; Clifton Below seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously without change.

OLD BUSINESS:

MASTER PLAN – ENERGY CHAPTER

Rebecca Owens presented an 8/18/2022 revised version of the Energy Chapter of the Master Plan and led a discussion on the revisions. A new Outcome 8 on equity was introduced based on the work of Woody Rothe. Staff and LEAC members will continue to work on this Outcome 8, esp. action items, for the next LEAC meeting. They are also tasked with reviewing the entire chapter for the next meeting with an aim to then update the Executive Summary and Vision Statement.

COMMUNITY POWER UPDATE

Asst. Mayor Below gave an update on the Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH). The PUC 2200 Administrative Rules for community aggregation were delayed a month due to Covid. At a CPCNH Board meeting on the 18th they approved entering into contract negotiations with [Ascend Analytics](#) for a package of services valued at roughly \$1.5 million, with deferred compensation until after start-up of CPCNH. Ascend will be helping CPCNH with portfolio management, risk management, procurement management, credit services, and load serving entity services. They are a leader in grid-scale battery

* **QUORUM NOTE:** When LEAC has five members, three need to be physically present to create a quorum.

dispatch, optimization, and performance. Ascend has a current portfolio of roughly 5,000 MW that uses their Smart Bidder software which employs AI software as part of its management. They will bring \$8 million of credit support to CPCNH. Clifton Below also mentioned that Calpine Energy Services has been enlisted to offer support with providing retail services. CPCNH is looking for a 3rd contractor to assist with member engagement support. 34 NH communities have now expressed an interest in joining CPCNH, representing 50% of the state's population. The Lebanon Community Power municipal aggregation plan was resubmitted on July 1st to the PUC. Regarding CPCNH's rules adoption by the PUC, Clifton said that of 44 issues that were raised in the public comment process 43 were resolved in the Coalition's favor. One observer compared it to having been dealt three aces in a hand of cards. "We couldn't have had a better outcome." Said Asst. Mayor Below. The Coalition's timeline is to launch in April of 2023. Ascend said that 1-5 MW generation projects usually are not developed at the start-up of a municipal aggregation project, but current state, national, and global energy conditions have changed that and such projects in NH could be feasible and come online as soon as the next three years in conjunction with CPCNH.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

No new news.

LANDFILL GAS-TO-ENERGY PROJECT

An update was passed on from Landfill Superintendent Marc Morgan. National Grid has finished the legal review of the interconnect application and sent it to Liberty. The 18-month clock will start ticking when we get the contract from Liberty. He said that equipment for the project has started arriving and is being stored both indoors at the landfill and outside.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUBCOMMITTEE

Sherry Boschert gave a review of the EV Subcommittee's work. Greg Ames took minutes for the August LEAC EV Subcommittee and will submit them.

F150 Lightening The City's Ford F150 pickup truck is scheduled to arrive between 8/23-8/29. She asked for the City to get its seal on the doors asap so that it can be shown at a Thursday evening farmers market.

EV Subcommittee Webpage Continues to be developed as part of the ongoing outreach program.

EV Chargers & Site Plan Regulations Shaun Mulholland has asked David Brooks and the Planning Dept. to propose changes to the site plan regulations that would either incentivize or require a minimum level of charging at certain kinds of sites: multi-family housing, commercial/industrial, etc. Shaun Mulholland has asked Sherry Boschert to be involved in that process.

Winter EV Event The Subcommittee is planning an EV event around January, 2023 in order to inform prospective buyers that winter operation of EV's is not a hindrance.

Multi-Town RFP Tad Montgomery and Sherry Boschert will be meeting with Hanover and Hartford on 8/25 to continue the process of developing the RFP. They will be meeting with the Planning Office before then in order to get input on broader city planning objectives that could be met with the rollout of public EV charging infrastructure. All three towns will be bringing that info back and discussing how to incorporate it into the RFP on 8/25.

1 **NEW BUSINESS & OTHER NEWS:**

2
3 **CITY STRATEGIC PLAN**

4 The City Manager introduced LEAC members to the new strategic planning process that the City is
5 developing. He showed a new online City 'white board' tool and said that he is soliciting feedback on
6 the new strategic plan from boards and committees by the end of September. The goal is to have the
7 strategic plan approved by May of 2023 to be used to inform the 2024 budget. The term of the Plan is
8 three years. On the [City's Strategic Plan website](#) there is a [Miro Board](#) that is available to the
9 community to contribute to the brainstorming process. Comments on the Miro Board are arranged by
10 topic. Mr. Mulholland said that each accepted element will have measurable actions and
11 measurements. This Board will eventually be linked to the City's Master Plan. LEAC members are
12 encouraged to brainstorm ideas for the next LEAC meeting. Shaun said that the topic of Environmental
13 Justice has not been fully developed yet. He also asked if there were other topics/headings that LEAC
14 members think should be added.

15
16 **MICRO-GRID**

17 Tad Montgomery, Clifton Below, Greg Ames and Everett Hammond will be meeting with Liberty on
18 8/31 to discuss this potential project.

19
20 **SOLAR**

21 Tad Montgomery announced that the City Management has given the go-ahead for a Phase 3 solar
22 project. The power generated from this solar – that which is not used behind the meter at the various
23 sites or otherwise used to meet City needs – could be combined with the landfill gas-to-energy project
24 and sold to other City electricity users under a pilot project with Liberty Utilities that has been enabled
25 by the passage of Senate Bill 321. The maximum amount is 2 MW under this program, so Tad
26 Montgomery said that he would reach out to Clifton Below to set up a meeting with the solar
27 developer to determine exactly how much solar can be developed in Phase 3. It could be over 1 MW.

28
29 Tad Montgomery requested LEAC's input on the issue of solar Renewable Energy Credits (REC's) and
30 what the City should do with them. After a discussion the following proposal was made by Gene
31 Homicki and seconded by Jon Chaffee:

32
33 MOTION: "LEAC strongly recommends that the City of Lebanon keep and retire REC's generated
34 by the solar arrays at the Valley Cemetery and Civic Memorial Fieldhouse buildings."

35
36 LEAC voted unanimously in support.

37
38 **ENERGY & FACILITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

- 39 • Clean School Bus Grant Tad Montgomery discussed the federal Clean School Bus grant program
40 and encouraged anyone who knows people in the school district to encourage them to apply
41 for funding. Lebanon is not registered as a 'priority' school, but additional funds may be made
42 available soon and the list of eligible schools expanded.

- City Solar Page Tad Montgomery recently revised and updated the [City's Solar Energy](#) page. LEAC members were encouraged to visit it and comment.
- Storrs Hill Lighting An update was given on the RFP that is being drafted to replace the ski slope lighting on Storrs Hill and its parking lot.
- Building Management System There was a brief update on the City's work to replace its aging BMS. An RFP for this should be issued soon.
- News on Winter Fuel Costs Tad Montgomery cited an August 12th WMUR News piece that projected \$8-9/gal. costs for heating oil next winter and quoted NH Department of Energy Commissioner Jared Chicoine as saying that he expects prices to go up.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Strategic Plan – continued discussion
- LEAC work priorities for 2022-2023
- REC discussion continued
- Master Plan – continued discussion
- Landfill Gas-To-Energy update
- Solar Phase 3 update

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **September 24, 2022:** There will be a Kearsarge - Lake Sunapee EV Expo in New London as part of Drive Electric week. Greg Ames asked if Tad or another City staff person could bring the Ford F150 to the event. For more info click [here](#).
- Saturday, September 24, 8 am-12 pm: 10th Annual Drive Electric Week Event, City Plaza New Hampshire State House, 7 North Main St., Concord, NH. More info [here](#).
- **September 25, 2022,** 8 am-5 pm: MassTuning TrackFest, Canaan Motor Club — A racetrack day for EV drivers only. Open to all including novices in regular street cars. No timed racing, no trophies. See more [here](#). See video of the East Coast's first EV track day in 2021 [here](#).

NEXT MEETING

Is scheduled for Thursday, September 15th at 4 PM, City Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Clifton Below to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 PM. The motion was seconded by Sherry Boschert and was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Tad Montgomery