



LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Council Chambers, City Hall

November 17th, 2022

4:00 PM

-- FINAL --

MEMBERS PRESENT*: Greg Ames (Chair), Jon Chaffee (Vice-Chair), Clifton Below (Council Representative), Woody Rothe

MEMBERS ABSENT: Meghan Butts (alternate), Gene Homicki (alternate), Sherry Boschert, Devin Wilkie (Council alternate)

STAFF PRESENT: Tad Montgomery

GUESTS PRESENT: none

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Greg Ames at 4:05 PM.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Woody Rothe moved to accept the October 2022 LEAC meeting minutes; Jon Chaffee seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously without change.

OLD BUSINESS:

MASTER PLAN – ENERGY CHAPTER

Rebecca Owens was unavailable to work on the Master Plan at this meeting.

COMMUNITY POWER UPDATE

Asst. Mayor Below gave an update on the Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH). Sugar Hill and Hancock have been admitted as members #23 and 24. Three contracts were approved by the Board on 10/17/22 - Calpine Energy Solutions for data management, a call center, start-up financing, and other services. CENH has been contracted to perform customer engagement, TrueSearch for CPCNH's CEO search, and Mr. Below expects Ascend Analytics soon for energy procurement. CPCNH gave a presentation at the Local Energy Solutions conference in October that was very well received and another at the NH Municipal Assoc. annual meeting. There are roughly 40 other municipalities that are actively interested in joining CPCNH. Many of these communities have started reaching out to their utilities for electricity use data under the new rules. Mr. Below mentioned that he will be needing help as things get close to launch, especially around publicity. CPCNH will have publicity packets available soon, and there will be a citywide mailing announcing the program in March. Launch is still anticipated for April if all goes well, but the schedule is tight. He explained many of the factors that go into the

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

1 launch date and said that there will be more info on the CPCNH launch at the Dec. LEAC meeting. He
2 also suggested that it might be beneficial for Lebanon to coordinate publicity regionally with other
3 local towns involved that will be involved in the launch like Hanover, Enfield, Plainfield, and Cornish.
4

5 **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

6 Asst. Mayor Below gave an update on legislative initiatives that relate to the City and its work in the
7 area of energy. He said that he will be intervening in the net metering docket through CPCNH. He also
8 mentioned that the PUC is working to resolve the jurisdictional issues that have hung up
9 implementation of pilot projects surrounding SB 321.
10

11 **EV CHARGING RFP (LEBANON/HANOVER/HARTFORD)**

12 Tad Montgomery said that there was no news to report other than work that Lebanon and Hanover did
13 on the CMAQ grant application for regional EV charging infrastructure development.
14

15 **REPORT ON RENTAL DECARBONIZATION PILOT**

16 Jon Chaffee and Woody Rothe gave an update on this project and their discussions with landlords and
17 possible funding sources.
18

19 **LANDFILL GAS-TO-ENERGY PROJECT**

20 Tad Montgomery announced that the air permit for the project is out for public comment, and the
21 comment period ends Nov. 30th. If there are no comments Erica Douglas says that the temporary
22 permit will be issued. Mr. Below said that he has heard back from Dmitry Balashov of Liberty Utilities
23 today concerning Mr. Below's detailed proposal for reinstalling solar on the Landfill Garage roof and
24 avoiding the expensive 3VO/DTT communication system. Mr. Balashov said that he has asked Liberty's
25 senior engineers to prioritize our request and respond to the City quickly. One of their engineers was
26 recently hired from National Grid, which might expedite the approval process. Mr. Balashov also said
27 that there is a special funding source under the federal IIJA bill that is called the Grid Resilience and
28 Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program. It specifically targets software to support distributed energy
29 resources (DER) projects such as what we are exploring with LFGTE, the microgrid, expanded solar, and
30 the SB 321 pilot project.
31

32 **CITY STRATEGIC PLAN**

33 Tad Montgomery said that there has been no development on this since the last meeting. He has
34 taken comments from LEAC members, grouped them, and put them into a template that has been
35 supplied by DPW Staff.
36

37 **NEW BUSINESS & OTHER NEWS:**

39 **ELECTRIC VEHICLES & EV SUBCOMMITTEE**

40 The last EV Subcommittee was cancelled and there is no report. Mr. Below mentioned that the federal
41 IRA legislation offers up to \$40,000 in incentives for electric heavy-duty vehicles.
42

PROPOSED EV INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT REGULATION

Tad Montgomery passed on from Rebecca Owens that the Planning Board will be discussing this proposal again at their meeting Monday, Nov. 21, 6:30 PM. LEAC members are encouraged to attend and weigh in.

SOLAR

There was a continued discussion on the Phase 3 solar project and what goals and objectives the City might consider for this. LEAC members recommended the following, but also noted that some may conflict with each other:

- Maximize solar production, especially in winter.
- Prioritize sites with big loads behind the meter to maximize the value of electricity generated.
- Maximize value by installing arrays that capture additional value through avoided transmission and capacity payments, through the use of dual-access trackers that produce power later in the day and mid-winter, and/or implementation of a pilot power generation program with SB 321. This may require holding off on some Phase 3 arrays for a few months while jurisdictional issues get resolved by the PUC.
- Maximize distributed energy production in order to supply excess power to City residents and businesses (community solar).
- Use solar power generation to increase resiliency of City infrastructure, potentially with battery storage.

ENERGY & FACILITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Tad Montgomery briefly presented the four Letters of Interest written for the city for grant funds for different electric vehicle infrastructure development projects.
- Window Dressers Build: Tad Montgomery discussed the recent Hartland/Hartford window insert community build and how impressed he was with its sophisticated organization. LEAC members discussed the program and how to find the necessary volunteers to do one in Lebanon.
- Solarize: Tad Montgomery passed on to LEAC members a proposal from members of the Hartford Energy Committee to do a joint Solarize program together. LEAC members brainstormed people in Lebanon who might be interested in helping to organize a Solarize campaign and said that they would reach out to those people. Tad Montgomery said that he had asked if Vital Communities had the capacity to help organize such a bi-town event but hadn't heard back. He also said that he would explore funding for an intern to help organize it and/or a Window Insert community build.

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

No upcoming events were mentioned.

NEXT MEETING

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Woody Rothe to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 PM. The motion was seconded by Jon Chaffee and was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Tad Montgomery