



LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Room #1, City Hall, 51 N. Park St., Lebanon

March 16th, 2023

4:00 PM

-- FINAL--

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

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

STAFF PRESENT: Tad Montgomery, Rebecca Owens (remote)

GUESTS PRESENT: none.

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Greg Ames at 4:18 PM.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Woody Rothe moved to accept the February 16th and March 13th 2023 LEAC meeting minutes; Sherry Boschert seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously with changes suggested by Greg Ames.

OLD BUSINESS:

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Clifton Below gave an overview of the following legislation and PUC work:

SB-166: (see February minutes).

Net Metering: Clifton Below stated that he believes new net metering tariffs will be approved and starting as early as next summer there will be a temporal value to energy produced through distributed generation like solar. Solar power produced in the middle of the day will be worth less than that produced in the early morning and, especially, in the late afternoon.

SB-321: Clifton Below said that he expects there to be a PUC hearing re jurisdictional issues regarding this bill in May with a decision possible by June or July.

Liberty Household Battery Pilot: Greg Ames mentioned that there has been a recent PUC ruling to allow Liberty to begin the Phase 2 of its household battery pilot program. Among other things the PUC has decided that net metered customers with household batteries may charge those batteries from the grid.

LANDFILL GAS TO ENERGY PROJECT

Tad Montgomery informed LEAC members that Liberty Utilities has installed new utility poles for the project. Erica Douglas says that the current plan is for site work improvements to be done by spring, equipment set-up during the summer, and commissioning to take place by the end of the year. Almost all of the new equipment has arrived.

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

CITY SOLAR PROJECTS

Tad Montgomery said that the Landfill Garage solar array should be reinstalled by ReVision Energy next week. He also reported that David Webb at ReVision has gotten back to him regarding the Phase 3 solar. ReVision is not interested in installing dual-axis solar trackers, but would consider a single-axis array if it is more than 2 MW in size. They propose such an array at the airport, as well as rooftop arrays at the airport terminal, two hangars, and City Hall. Clifton Below and others suggested, in light of net metering changes that Clifton expects soon, that there were other companies who would be happy to install dual-axis trackers and the City should issue an RFP.

RENTAL HOUSING DECARBONIZATION/WEATHERIZATION PILOT

Jon Chaffee and Mr. Rothe continue to funnel prospective landlords for this project to Liberty's weatherization team at NHSaves.

COMMUNITY POWER UPDATE

This discussion was minimal in light of the Special LEAC Meeting to discuss Community Power three days earlier. Rates have been announced to the public and are:

- Granite Basic – 23.4% renewable (State minimum): 15.8¢/kWh
- Granite Plus – 33% renewable: 16.2¢/kWh
- Clean 50 – 50% renewable: 16.9¢/kWh
- Clean 100 – 100% renewable: 19.1¢/kWh

This is in contrast to the Liberty default rate of 22.07¢/kWh. Note that these rates are for the supply or 'electricity' component of electric bills or costs, and do not include costs for transmission, distribution, or other charges.

Lebanon Community Power Public Forum: is scheduled as a special LEAC meeting for April 4th, 6:30-8 PM, in the City Hall Council Chambers and virtual through Microsoft Teams. Clifton Below said that Henry Herndon has developed a short slide deck for CPCNH first wave communities' public forums.

Outreach: Clifton Below mentioned that CPCNH will be placing ¼-page ads in the *Valley News* on five consecutive days leading up to the Sunday before the April 4th forum. There was also discussion of social media and radio ads, NHPR sponsorship, and window decals that could be given to people and businesses who commit to opting up to greener LCP rates.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE, STRATEGIC PLAN

No news to report.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES & EV SUBCOMMITTEE

Tad Montgomery said that Rebecca Owens has brought to the attention of Staff and Sherry Boschert a new funding opportunity for public EV charging infrastructure – the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) program of the Local Infrastructure Hub. Rebecca has said that there needs to be a project manager of this grant application who would work with her on it, and Rebecca has written a list of tasks that the project manager would need to do. This grant has a May 30th deadline. Sherry Boschert described some of those tasks, including public outreach to low-income residents to get their input.

Sherry Boschert said that she is willing to help with this grant application, and thinks that the focus should be on the ‘charging deserts’ in the center of Lebanon and near Centerra, preferably with fast chargers. She would like to get the three towns together ASAP to discuss applying jointly, possibly with an EV charger installation company like ReVision Energy or Norwich Technologies. Clifton Below suggested that the City’s work showing off the Ford F150 Lightning could be counted towards outreach, as well as the EV charging map that Sherry Boschert and the UVLSRPC have developed.

ENERGY & FACILITY MANAGER’S REPORT

Tad Montgomery talked about the city greenhouse gas reduction plan report that he is helping Mark Goodwin to write, and which will be presented on April 27th. He said that he is working on the installation of back-up power generators at the DPW Garage and Administration buildings, which led to a discussion of how generators can allow for the use of solar power when they are powering a facility. He also mentioned to Jon Chaffee that the federal IRA legislation allows for an additional 20% Direct Pay incentive to non-governmental solar projects that will serve low-income households. Lastly, he said that recent reports show a 100% increase in the number of applications for fuel assistance during the current heating season.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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| • Master Plan – continued discussion | 22 | • REC discussion continued |
| • Strategic Plan – continued discussion | 23 | • A new Chair for LEAC |
| • LEAC work priorities for 2023 | 24 | • Solarize Lebanon/Hartford |

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Energize Upper Valley and Drive Electric Earth Day, April 1st, 11 AM – 3 PM, LISTEN building on Maple Street, White River Junction. <https://driveelectricearthday.org/event?eventid=3665>
- Green Your Fleet and Beyond, June 9th, NH Motor Speedway, Loudon NH. <https://www.granitestatecleancities.nh.gov/happening/green-fleet.htm>

NEXT MEETINGS

The next LEAC EV Subcommittee meeting is Thursday, April 13th, 3 PM, Lebanon City Hall Council Chambers, although Sherry Boschert is considering scheduling a special meeting before then to discuss the CFI grant.

The next LEAC meeting is Thursday, April 20th, 4 PM, City Hall Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Clifton Below to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 PM. The motion was seconded by Sherry Boschert and was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Tad Montgomery