

FINAL

**LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
4:00PM, THURSDAY JUNE 15, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Greg Ames (Chair), Sherry Boschert, Woody Rothe, James Mashal (alternate) REMOTE; Jon Chaffee (Vice Chair) REMOTE

MEMBERS ABSENT: Clifton Below (City Council Rep.), Devin Wilkie (Alternate Council Rep), Meghan Butts (alternate)

STAFF PRESENT: Tad Montgomery (Energy & Facilities Manager)

OTHERS PRESENT: Henry Bromberg
Max Sclar REMOTE
Aaron Miller of SHARC Energy REMOTE

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ames called the meeting to order at 4:01pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 18, 2023

A MOTION was made by Ms. Boschert to approve the May 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes as presented. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Rothe.

Chair Ames appointed Alternate Member James Mashal to sit in the vote for Vice Chair Jon Chaffee. Mr. Mashal said he was not able to be present in person because he needed to pick up his child from daycare.

**** The Vote on the Motion was approved by roll call vote: Mashal: aye; Boschert: aye; Rothe: aye; Ames: aye (4-0).***

A MOTION was made by Mr. Rothe that the Lebanon Energy Advisory Committee (LEAC) request that the Lebanon City Council redesignate the “high school student” seat on the LEAC to a seat for a regular member. The Motion was seconded by Ms. Boschert.

Chair Ames noted that he and Mr. Rothe have been on LEAC for six years and have never had a high school student representative attend a meeting or join the Committee. He said typically an alternate member is usually appointed to take the place of the high school student representative.

**** The Vote on the Motion was approved by roll call vote: Boschert: aye; Rothe: aye; Ames: aye (3-0 Mashal abstaining from the vote).***

Vice Chair Chaffee joined the meeting (REMOTE) at 4:07pm. He said he was not present in person because of illness.

Chair Ames asked that the Presentation from SHARC Energy be given next, which is out of the order of the published meeting agenda.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation from SHARC Energy - Wastewater HVAC

Mr. Aaron Miller, Eastern Regional Manager from SHARC Energy, shared his presentation on Wastewater Heat Recovery (included in the Agenda packet).

He said Mr. Montgomery had contacted him to share information on Thermal Energy Networks for Lebanon. He said SHARC is capturing energy (which is escaping from buildings via the sanitary line) and using it to heat, cool, and make domestic hot water. He said the process is decarbonizing the energy and reducing GHG emissions. He noted that hydronic heat is more efficient than other heating systems, and its associated equipment is installed in mechanical rooms, which leaves space for other features in buildings.

Mr. Miller explained the features and details of SHARC's two product lines: the "Piranha" and the "SHARC."

He explained that the systems can either process sanitary outflow before it leaves the building, or process water from the sanitation line underground after it leaves the building. He said he'd be happy to answer any questions or provide more details to the City Engineer and staff. Mr. Montgomery said he was thinking this type of system might work for the Taylor St. redevelopment project in downtown Lebanon, and a possible district heating system could include the Lebanon Mall possibly up to the fire station.

Mr. Max Sclar joined the meeting at 4:35pm.

Ms. Boschert asked about the cost of installing and operating the system. Mr. Miller said it depends on the scale of the project. He said the SHARC product (which is the larger of his SHARC's two systems) provides a bigger ROI. He said he could estimate the costs if given more information about a particular project.

Mr. Rothe and Mr. Miller discussed the 140-degree temperature output. Mr. Miller said the output temperature varies and can be less than 140 degrees. Ms. Boschert said the City should look into it more. Chair Ames asked if he could share the long version of the presentation with other members of the public and Mr. Miller said it can be shared.

Mr. Mashal asked if there's a way to estimate the amount of recoverable energy that would be output in a particular area, based on the number of residents in that area. Mr. Miller said his company uses ASHRAE assumptions to estimate output volume. He said, if no usage data is available, assumptions about the amount of energy produced by a sewer system can be made based on the size of the pipeline. Mr. Miller said that the best analysis for recoverable heat can be conducted if there is data for a sewer line that includes flow rates and temperature.

Mr. Miller said SHARC Energy has been in operation since 2010. He said there are several systems in operation all over the country and in Canada. He said he would provide the list of systems in operation.

Mr. Miller noted that SHARC Energy's systems are fully sealed so they can be installed inside a building without odor. He said SHARC Energy's main competitors, Huber and Uhrig, do not have fully sealed systems.

Chair Ames asked again that the group discuss several agenda items out of the order of the published meeting agenda.

3. OLD BUSINESS

D. Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Grant Application

Ms. Boschert said an application for a \$5.2 million grant for Charging and Fueling Infrastructure funding from the Department of Transportation (DOT) was submitted this week. She said the grant is for funding to install public charging stations for electric vehicles in Lebanon. She said it was the first federal grant application she had ever worked on. She said the grant application text, including a budget itemization, is available to LEAC members via Mr. Montgomery. She said this application will be helpful as a potential template for future CFI and other federal grant applications. She said a lesson learned is that community involvement is important for these kinds of grant applications and data needs to be collected continuously on community engagement efforts. She said she hopes to involve other communities, such as Hanover, and Hartford, to talk about what the Upper Valley's needs are for EV charging and potentially apply collaboratively for future grants.

Ms. Boschert said she should hear in September whether any funds will be granted to Lebanon. She said, if so, once a grant contract is signed, they would have 18-24 months to install the charging stations. She said it is a 5-year grant period, so operation and maintenance of the charging stations would be covered for five years.

Ms. Boschert thanked Rebecca Owens and Phil Busch for their help with the grant application. She said they both contributed a great deal to the project.

Mr. Montgomery said he would reach out to other Upper Valley communities about arranging a meeting time in a few weeks to talk about collaborating for future grant funding applications.

Chair Ames said he would like the City to investigate the SHARC Energy technology (presented earlier in the meeting) further. Mr. Mashal asked if this kind of project would be prioritized over other current projects. Ms. Boschert said if the City has personnel resources to undertake the project, it should be looked into it further. Mr. Rothe noted that Mr. Below has been interested in geothermal technology, so this technology should be considered as well. Chair Ames said he thought the systems described are less expensive than geothermal systems. Mr. Mashal said he has the feeling that there will be not that much heat output, given the Lebanon's size and climate.

B. Landfill Gas to Energy Updates

Mr. Montgomery said the City's Solid Waste Superintendent said she applied for a revised air permit and expects it to be issued by the end of the month. Mr. Montgomery said he sent to DPW an overview of the potential for investment tax credits for the project. He said they could get up to 60% of the project refunded.

C. Municipal Solar Updates

Mr. Rothe said there is a lot of construction going on at the Prospect Hill pumping station. He said the reason for the pumping station is to increase the output for Hillcrest, for which he said demand is increasing. He said he thought only SolarFlect is interested in installing trackers at the site. Mr. Montgomery said ReVision is now interested in single access trackers, and that Solarflect and two other companies have also submitted pre-proposals for the project.

A. Legislation/PUC Regulations/CPCNH/LCP Updates

No update

E. Report on Rental Decarbonization Pilot/Weatherization

No update

4. NEW BUSINESS**C. Recent and Upcoming Conferences or Webinars of Note**

Ms. Boschert said Judy Colla of the Hanover Community Power invited LEAC to a reception on July 11 at 4:00pm at the Irving Institute to welcome the new executive director of Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH). She said she sent the members of LEAC an emailed invitation. She said they would like a member of each community that launched CPCNH to give a two-minute talk about the main goals of their community power group. Chair Ames said the obvious person would be Mr. Below. Ms. Boschert said she would email him, but asked LEAC members to speak to him if they see Mr. Below before the event. Mr. Montgomery said he would also attend if his supervisors approve his attendance.

Ms. Boschert said, before the CFI grant application project, she had told the EV subcommittee that she wanted to have more employers involved in the effort. She said she suggested employers could offer their employees incentives to drive EVs. She said she invited several members of the community to gather on Tuesday, June 20 at 9:00am on Zoom and share ideas. She said it is not an official EV subcommittee meeting. She said she hopes to at least recognize employers in the community who are EV Friendly and have incentives for employees by Labor Day.

Ms. Boschert left the meeting at 5:32pm.

The meeting was suspended at 5:32pm because of the lack of a quorum.

B. EV Subcommittee Report

D. EFM Report

5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

7. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,
Paula Roux
Recording Secretary