



ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

(Subcommittee of the Lebanon Energy Advisory Committee)

City Hall Council Chambers

December 14th 2023, 3:00 PM

-- Final --

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sherry Boschert (Chair), Clifton Below

MEMBERS ABSENT: Meghan Butts

STAFF PRESENT: Tad Montgomery, Energy & Facilities Manager

GUESTS PRESENT: Henry Bromberg (LEAC member), Tom Benzel, Ellis Boettger (remote), William Stearns, Vijay Prithiv

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Sherry Boschert at 3:03 PM. This was followed by introductions of everybody present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Sherry Boschert moved to accept the November 2023 EV Subcommittee minutes; Clifton Below seconded. Approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Granite State Clean Fleet Grant Application for Street Sweepers** – Tad Montgomery gave an update on the NH DES' award of this grant to the City. Next steps are to draft an agreement between the City and NH DES that must be approved by the Governor and NH Executive Council. Deliveries of these vehicles are now scheduled for 290 days after the order is placed, which will come after state approval and the City procurement process.
- B. **Fleet Electrification Plan** – Tad Montgomery gave an update on the draft *ADM-149 Fleet and Equipment Electrification Policy*. Sherry Boschert offered to send the draft policy to the guests present.
- C. **Zoning Variance for the former Element Hotel** – Sherry Boschert attended the Zoning Board of Adjustments meeting on 12/4/2023 and reported that the owners of the Element Hotel are willing to comply with the City's EV charging station ordinance for developments.

- D. **Charging and Fueling Grant** – Tad Montgomery said that he has heard the announcement for this grant will come in January.
- E. **E-Busses at SAU 88** – Sherry Boschert reported that she has not heard from the school district superintendent since their meeting. The SAU owns the buses and contracts out operation of them. Ms. Boschert asked those present if anyone had a good connection with someone on the SAU 88 School Board. Mr. Below suggested Councilor Karen Liot-Hill. He also recommended connecting the SAU with Advanced Transit, which already owns and operates e-buses.
- F. **NH Energy Group** – Ms. Boschert describe a recent meeting of this group and its work relating to alternative, sustainable transportation.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **NH Climate Action Plan Brainstorm** – Ms. Boschert led a discussion of the federal funding that is becoming available to help states and communities develop climate action plans. There was a brainstorm of ideas around big projects that New Hampshire could develop to lower emissions with federal funding, including:
- Funding for a community's match or unfunded portion of e-bus grants
 - E-bike subsidies and covered e-bike charging stations
 - Carshare programs
 - Demand response hot water heaters
- B. **Dartmouth College Security to Acquire Teslas** – Ms. Boschert passed on unsubstantiated news from a very reliable source that the DC Security Department is purchasing Tesla EVs for their fleet.
- C. **NHRSA 261:153 - \$5 Fee With Vehicle Registrations** – Ms. Boschert has talked with the City Clerk about this option to collect a fee from vehicle registrations in Lebanon that could go towards sustainable transportation options. Clerk Ewing said that she thinks this fee is already collected and going to another fund, but she will check and confirm. During this conversation Ms. Boschert learned that the Clerk has access to a data collection contractor for NH municipal clerks offices and obtained the following information for Lebanon:
- The number of plug-in vehicles registered in the city by December 12, 2023 showed a 70% increase compared over 2022.
 - On Dec. 12th there were 162 EVs and 50 plug-in hybrids for a total of 212 plug-in vehicles.

- The number of plug-in vehicles in Lebanon has increased 278% since 2020, when there were 56.
- D. Possible EV Chargers at Shaw's Plaza** – Ms. Boschert said that she has spoken with people involved in the development of six DC fast chargers for Rivian trucks and two public Level 2 chargers at Shaw's. Others present confirmed this and speculated that these might be made available to other vehicle makes and models in the future.
- E. NH Earth Day Event** – Ms. Boschert proposed that Lebanon host an Earth Day EV event at Shaw's and ask if Rivian would be interested in being the major sponsor.

OTHER NEWS

- Ms. Boschert said that she was made aware of the Tiny Seed Project recently, an organization that acts as fiscal sponsor for small projects that need a 501C3 umbrella to collect tax-deductible donations. She will consider them for future projects like the Upper Valley EV Expo.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

None were discussed that remain in the future other than the possible Earth Day event.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, January 12th, 3 PM, Council Chambers, City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT:

Clifton Below moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:58 PM, seconded by Sherry Boschert. The motion passed without contention.

Respectfully submitted,

Tad Montgomery