

FINAL

**LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
4:00PM, THURSDAY DECEMBER 21, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Henry Bromberg (Chair), Jon Chaffee (Vice Chair), Woody Rothe, Clifton Below (City Council Rep.), Sherry Boschert, James Mashal (REMOTE)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Devin Wilkie (Alt. Council Rep), Meghan Butts (alt)

STAFF ABSENT: Tad Montgomery (Energy & Facilities Manager)

OTHERS PRESENT: Rick Brown

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Chaffee called the meeting to order at 4:27pm. Mr. Mashal said he was attending remotely because he is travelling.

A MOTION was made by James Mashal to nominate Henry Bromberg as Chair of the Lebanon Energy Advisory Committee. The Motion was seconded by Sherry Boschert.

** The Vote on the Motion was approved: (Roll Call: 5-0 - Mashal: aye; Rothe: aye; Below: aye; Boschert: aye; Chaffee: aye).*

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 16, 2023

A MOTION was made by Sherry Boschert to approve the November 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes as amended. The Motion was seconded by Woody Rothe.

Amendments: Page 3, Line 24-30: Change the bullet item to read: “Mr. Montgomery said Ms. Boschert attended a meeting of the Zoning Board of Adjustments to remind them that, if the ZBA grants a variance for the former Element Hotel to be converted into residential homes, Lebanon zoning regulations would require the installation of EV charging. The ZBA postponed discussion until the December meeting. Mr. Montgomery also said Ms. Boschert met with the Durham Town Council member regarding Lebanon zoning ordinance.”

Page 2 Line 22&23: Change “customers” to “suppliers”

Page 2 Line 34; Page 4 Line 30: Change “Roethe” to “Rothe”

Page 2 Line 38: Change “Electricity survey” to “Energy Survey”

** The Vote on the Motion was approved: (Roll Call: 5-0 - Mashal: aye; Rothe: aye; Below: aye; Boschert: aye; Chaffee: aye).*

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. Legislation/PUC Regulations/CPCNH Updates

Mr. Below said the CPCNH is going to recommend to the board, which is meeting next Thursday, to adopt the following rates, as of February 1, 2024:

Granite Basic Rate	8.1 cents/kilowatt*
Granite Plus Rate	8.4 cents/kilowatt*
Clean 50 Rate	9.4 cents/kilowatt*
Clean 100 Rate	12.4 cents/kilowatt

*Lower than Liberty Utilities' default service rate

He said they will have the lowest rates in the state for residential customers. He said Liberty's rates for medium and large commercial customers is dropping by about 19%.

He said membership continues to grow and will be up to 54 members as other communities join the Coalition. He said it will soon represent about 30% of the state's population.

He said he filed testimony on behalf of the Coalition in the last round of net metering dockets in this net metering and Liberty distribution rate case. He said they are also trying to be more engaged with the utilities and DOE on what changes are needed to enable us to serve net-metered customers.

He said the Regulatory and Legislative Affairs Committee meeting that day covered several House and Senate bills that have been introduced to recommend positions that the board could approve. He said the committee's discussion resulted in a unanimous set of recommendations.

Mr. Mashal asked if the LEAC needs to assign a new alternate to Mr. Below for the CPCNH Board to replace out-going Chair Greg Ames. He said he'd be glad to be the alternate but hopes that Mr. Below is never unable to serve on the Coalition Board. Mr. Below said alternate members can serve on committees, and they are trying to engage the more than 50 Board members to do committee work. Mr. Below said he would speak to Mr. Ames to determine if he wants to continue as an alternate, and, if not, he would submit the request to name Mr. Mashal as an alternate CPCNH Board member to the City Council.

B. Landfill Gas to Energy Updates

Mr. Below said his testimony in the net-metering case will enhance and open better options for the landfill gas to energy project. He said he's done a lot of analysis is the value that it produces in avoided transmission costs. He said the project adds between 1 ½ -2 cents/ kilowatt to the value of that output. He said, if they are successful in the changes in net metering then Lebanon Community power could be a direct off taker of that power output and it could be used to offset the load within the City because it will produce more than the City needs to offset the balance of its load.

C. Municipal Solar Updates

Mr. Below said the RFP that Mr. Montgomery will work on will be informed in part by what evolves out of the net-metering case.

D. Rental Decarbonization/Utility Burden/Sustainability Fellow Update

Vice Chair Chaffee said he is pretty sure they will get a Sustainability Fellow from UNH. He said the Fellow would be transferring city records to the database supplied by the Department of Energy that would be an operating system that holds data about buildings, energy use, and the stages of weatherization and insulation. He said it could be the operating system for a weatherization program in Lebanon.

E. SHARC Energy Wastewater Heat Recovery

Vice Chair Chaffee said Mr. Montgomery had told him he was worried that this technology is not being taken seriously as a possible potential energy source for the new fire station. He said he's unsure if financial analysis about how expensive such a system would be compared to other types of heat has been completed. Chair Bromberg said the analysis has been done but has not been given to the City yet. He said he would follow up to provide more details to the City about the project.

F. City Master Plan-Energy Chapter Update

No update

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. EV Subcommittee Report

- **Electric School Buses Proposal**

Ms. Boschert said she put out a call for people who want to be on the EV subcommittee and several people have said they are interested.

- **EV Street Sweepers**

Ms. Boschert said they were awarded a \$2.9 million grant to purchase electric street sweepers, and the City Council did allocate the matching funds in the budget, which were required for the grant. She said it includes the landfill gas-to-energy chargers. She said she believes Lebanon is the first NH community to have electric street sweepers. Mr. Below said a large part of the cost landfill gas-to-energy plant can island, meaning it can continue to operate if the grid goes down. He said the plant will also have a Level 3 DC fast charger and Level 2 charging, which means that, during an extended power outage, the City would have a way to charge its electric vehicles. Ms. Boschert said Mr. Montgomery solicited letters of support from surrounding communities.

- **Proposal to the Zoning Board of Adjustments Re: The request for a variance at the Element Hotel**

Ms. Boschert attended a meeting of the Zoning Board of Adjustments regarding a request to convert the former Element Hotel into residential homes. She said the hotel agreed to add EV Charging. She said the ZBA did not make a decision about the variance and delayed it to its January meeting.

- **CFI Grant Status**

No update

- **Meeting with SAU 88 Superintendent about Electric School Buses**

Ms. Boschert said there has been no activity from the School Board about writing a grant for funds for electric school buses. She said the deadline for the grant is the end of January. She said she will reach out to City Councilor Karen Liot Hill, and asked the Committee members to reach out to anyone they know who may be associated with the School Board to urge them to respond.

Ms. Boschert said she heard Dartmouth College is converting its security fleet to Teslas. She said it did go live with a dual tracker solar EV station with four charge ports.

She said, according to the City's registration data, the number of registered EVs and plug-in hybrid registrations have increased by 70% compared to last year, and 278% since 2016. She said this data amounts to 212 plug-in vehicles registered in the City. She said Plug-In America has reported that consumers have purchased 1 million plug-in vehicles in one year.

She said Rivian is building a fast-charging station at the Shaw's Plaza in West Lebanon, which will include six fast chargers and two Level 2 chargers. She said she was told the station should be completed by early 2024.

She said she is planning another Drive Electric Earth Day event in April. She said she is considering asking Rivian to be a sponsor.

Ms. Boschert reviewed the process for becoming a voting member of the EV Subcommittee. She said it is required that the members must be members of LEAC. She said there are currently three or possibly four open seats (if the Planning Board Representative seat is converted to a regular member seat) on LEAC.

The group discussed the idea of recommending to the City Council that the LEAC Planning Board Representative seat be converted to a regular LEAC member seat. Chair Bromberg said he'd like to speak to the Planning Board to see why no one has been participating on the LEAC. He said he'd like to discuss this again at next month's meeting.

B. Report on UNH Sustainability Fellow for Summer 2024

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

C. Discuss Possible Lebanon Electrification Pilot as Part of NHDES Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Application to EPA

Vice Chair Chaffee said he and Mr. Rothe met with NHDES, which said they could possibly include Lebanon in their grant application instead of Lebanon submitting a separate grant application. He said they're not sure what they're going to do and we need to continue to coordinate with them and promote the idea that a pilot in Lebanon would be beneficial to the whole state. He said the grant money would be used in the pilot in Lebanon for additional rebates. The grant funds could be replaced in Community Power communities by an adder on their community power. He said the biggest question, if Lebanon gets the grant, is whether the program would be an "opt-in" or "opt-out" program.

The group discussed how the CPCNH might provide funds to the City. Mr. Below explained that a discretionary adder is set by the City to modify energy rates.

D. Possible Publicity Campaign for Lebanon Community Power / CPCNH

Vice Chair Chaffee said CPCNH has saved customers more than \$1 million as of September 2023, and he said he believes that should receive some publicity. Mr. Below said, with the upcoming rate reduction, it might be a good time to promote the CPCNH. Ms. Boschert suggested a paragraph could be put out on a LebAlert or in the Thursday enewsletter. She said then it could go on the Upper Valley listserv and on Lebanon's Facebook page. She said she would work with Vice Chair Chaffee and Mr. Rothe to compose a message for a LebAlert after the first of the year. Mr. Below said the CPCNH is looking to fill a Communications Director position, who would be the person to promote such news. The group agreed to revisit the idea at the next meeting, after Vice Chair Chaffee and Mr. Rothe collect more data for the message.

E. LEAC Input into the NHDES Climate Action Planning Grant

Ms. Boschert said NHDES has been conducting listening sessions to get ideas to add to the state Climate Action Plan. She said they are looking for local climate action items. She urged members to put in requests if they have them. She said there have been some great general ideas, but they need more specifics.

F. Recent and Upcoming Conferences or Webinars of Note

None

5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No members of the public were present.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

7. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Sherry Boschert to adjourn the meeting at 5:43pm. The Motion was seconded by Woody Rothe.

**** The Vote on the Motion was approved: (Roll Call: 6-0 – Bromberg: aye; Mashal: aye; Rothe: aye; Below: aye; Boschert: aye; Chaffee: aye).***

The meeting was adjourned at 5:43pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paula Roux
Recording Secretary