

FINAL

**LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
THURSDAY APRIL 18, 2024, 4:00PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Henry Bromberg (Chair), Jon Chaffee (Vice Chair), Clifton Below (City Council Rep.), Sherry Boschert (REMOTE), Tom Benzel, Woody Rothe, James Mashal, Patrick Kennelly (Planning Board Rep.), Bill Stearns

MEMBERS ABSENT: Devin Wilkie (Alt. Council Rep)

STAFF PRESENT: Tad Montgomery (Energy & Facilities Manager)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bromberg called the meeting to order at 4:05pm.

Chair Bromberg announced that Mr. Patrick Kennelly has been appointed as the Planning Board Representative for LEAC.

Ms. Boschert said she is attending remotely out of health concerns for a family member.

A presentation by Ms. Sophia Donforth of Vermont/New Hampshire Energy Education, which was listed as item 7. B. on the meeting agenda, was given next.

7. UPCOMING EVENTS

B. Presentation by Sophia Donforth, VEEP/NHEEP (Vermont and NH Energy Education Program)

Ms. Danforth gave an overview of the VEEP/NHEEP. She said the program's workshops aim to help people gain a scientific understanding of where energy comes from and how energy usage impacts the climate and what we can do about that. She said there are programs for adults and children. She said anyone who is interested in learning more can contact her or visit the website. She also said that NHEEP has a funder for programs in NH.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 21, 2024

Amendments: Page 4 Line 23: Change "Mr. Mashal" to "Mr. Benzel"
Page 4 Line 25: Change "Tom McNair" to "Mayor MacNamara"

A MOTION was made by Jon Chaffee to approve the March 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes as amended. The Motion was seconded by James Mashal.

Roll Call Vote:

Voting in Favor – Mr. Bromberg, Mr. Rothe, Mr. Benzel, Mr. Stearns, Mr. Below, Mr. Mashal, Mr. Chaffee, Ms. Boschert

Voting Against – None

****The MOTION was approved (8-0).***

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. Legislation/PUC Regulations/CPCNH Updates/ LCP updates; CPCNH Publicity Campaign

Mr. Below said the Senate held a hearing on House Bill 1600, which would make clear that municipal hosts under group net metering (generators up to 5 megawatts) could be used to offset the load of community power aggregations. He said the Department of Energy had some amendments and it is still under review.

He said the NH PUC is scheduled to hold a prehearing conference on the net metering docket. He said this hearing has been pushed back to August because of schedule conflicts.

He said the Coalition now includes 54 member communities and about 36% of the state's population. He said Ms. Bobbi-Jo Michael has been hired as director of administrative services and Ms. Deana Dennis has been hired as director of regulatory affairs. He said Mr. Andrew Hatch and a senior data analyst have been working remotely through the Resilient Buildings Group as well. He said seven board member seats are up for re-election, and there are exactly seven candidates for those seats. He said an item on the May City Council agenda will be to appoint Mr. Mashal as the alternative representative for Lebanon. CPCNH will be sending a second letter to new electric accounts soon to inform them that they will be enrolled automatically in CPCNH.

B. Landfill Gas to Energy Updates

Mr. Below said the City Council approved the supplemental appropriation for the accumulated costs of delays and reengineering parts of the project at the April 17 City Council meeting. He said the project may come online later this year.

Chair Bromberg said the next item will be 4.B., which is out of the order of the meeting's agenda.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Possible time change for monthly LEAC meeting

The group agreed to change the meeting time for the monthly LEAC meeting from 4-6 PM to 3:30-5:30 on the third Thursday of each month.

A MOTION was made by James Mashal to change the meeting time for the LEAC monthly meeting from 4pm to 3:30pm. The Motion was seconded by Tom Benzel.

Roll Call Vote:

Voting in Favor – Mr. Bromberg, Mr. Rothe, Mr. Benzel, Mr. Stearns, Mr. Below, Mr. Mashal, Mr. Chaffee, Ms. Boschert

Voting Against – None

****The MOTION was approved (8-0).***

Mr. Stearns left the meeting at 4:50pm.

5. OLD BUSINESS

C. Municipal Solar Updates

Mr. Montgomery said he is in the process of writing the RFP, which will not be issued until sometime after August to accommodate pending changes reflected in State Legislation and PUC rules. He said he has been considering three questions:

- The status of the net metering legislation and whether we can do more than one megawatt
- Ownership by a PPA, or City of Lebanon, or with a lease
- How to write an RFP that uses language regarding federal incentives such as Direct Pay that will obtain the maximum benefit with minimum hassle

He said he attended a very good online webinar on federal incentives for solar that was organized by the New Hampshire Network. He said the presenter was from Clean Energy New Hampshire.

D. Rental Decarbonization Pilot Project

Mr. Chaffee said he submitted the Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant application by April 1, but it was rejected without being consideration because the application did not meet the \$2 million minimum requirement. He said Ms. Rebecca Owens has requested a hearing with the EPA to reconsider and they have agreed to the meeting.

Mr. Below asked if Mr. Chaffee could send him a copy of the application because he could possibly use the information for another Grid Resilience Innovation Partnership grant application.

Mr. Chaffee said that a UNH intern will be working in Lebanon May 29-Aug. 19 to compile a database of Lebanon households in preparation for a city-wide residential building decarbonization project. There was a discussion regarding considerations for

how to publicize the sharing of anonymized data from low-moderate income households to assist with this project, possibly through collaboration with CPCNH.

E. EV Subcommittee Report: Drive Electric Earth Day Event; Public Charging Stations; Public Outreach/Education

Chair Bromberg appointed Bill Stearns as a member of the EV Subcommittee.

Ms. Boschert said the agenda packet for this meeting included a draft letter to the City Council requesting it contact the Lebanon School Board regarding the EV Subcommittee's request to the School District to consider the purchase and implementation of electric school buses.

A MOTION was made by Sherry Boschert that the LEAC approve the draft letter (as presented and with some minor changes made by Ms. Boschert and approved by Chair Bromberg) and request that the Lebanon City Council forward the letter to the Lebanon School Superintendent and the Lebanon School Board. The Motion was seconded by Jon Chaffee.

Roll Call Vote:

Voting in Favor – Mr. Bromberg, Mr. Rothe, Mr. Benzel, Mr. Below, Mr. Mashal, Mr. Chaffee, Ms. Boschert

Voting Against – None

****The MOTION was approved (7-0).***

Mr. Montgomery said the City Council voted at the April 17 meeting to approve supplemental appropriations for the Street Sweeper Grant of roughly \$53,000 to cover additional expenses that were the result of negotiations with NH DES.

Ms. Boschert said the EV Subcommittee is finalizing work on a Lebanon workplace charging program to allow Lebanon employees to use two existing EV chargers at cost.

Ms. Boschert said the EV Expo is planned for Earth Day on April 21. She said there will be 30 electric vehicles representing 21 different models, and 169 participants have pre-registered. She said she has developed a survey monkey that will be available online to participants and residents during the Expo. She asked Committee members for their input on survey questions.

She said she has been meeting with City Manager Mulholland to discuss using the TIF funds earmarked for economic development to add more EV chargers. She said he suggested a solar powered charger that would be free standing and not connected to the network. She said he said it would be a good candidate because it is somewhat portable, because the location is in a downtown parking lot that will be under construction, and he did not want anything permanently installed during construction. Mr. Below said he asked the Coalition's CEO Brian Callnan about whether the Coalition could manage the proposed chargers and manage the revenue. He said he was very excited about the idea.

Ms. Boschert said Mr. Benzel had presented details about a new type of pole-mounted EV charger being piloted in Burlington, VT. Mr. Benzel and Mr. Montgomery have a meeting with Liberty Utilities to review the specifications. Mr. Benzel said they are \$10,000 for a two-port charging device.

F. Include Energy Efficiency Standards as part of City's Affordable Housing Initiative

Mr. Rothe said that he and Mr. Benzel have met with the Mayor, Deputy City Manager, and Planning Director to discuss the City's new pattern zoning projects and if energy efficiency standards could be incorporated into the design. He said they met with City Manager Mulholland who said they will have the ability to look at the building specs and see if the energy efficiency could be enhanced.

He said he had two goals:

- LEAC could advise the City Council on making these buildings more energy efficient
- An Energy Efficient proposal can be presented at the public hearings for the patterned zoning project

Mr. Benzel said the City Manager was supportive of possibly using heat pumps and possibly solar panels on the buildings as well. Mr. Rothe said the City Manager said he would share the specs as soon as he has them.

G. City Master Plan-Energy Chapter Update

Chair Bromberg said he and Mr. Montgomery have met with members of the Planning Office re the Chapter 13 rewrite. He is now reviewing the Energy Chapter 13 of the Master Plan and asked if members of LEAC would be willing to champion the rewriting of Chapter 13. He said that LEAC will be working with Cate Hembree on this from now on as she is taking over from Rebecca Owens. He asked anyone interested to contact him.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. LEAC Board Member Seats

Chair Bromberg welcomed Mr. Stearns as a LEAC member and congratulated Ms. Boschert on being reinstated and continuing her participation in LEAC.

Mr. Chaffee said he attended the Environmental Justice Task Force, and he said that Mr. Richard Ford Burley (of the EJTF) asked LEAC to let him know what LEAC's priority would be for the Planning Board to consider. Mr. Chaffee said he told him updated energy building codes would be the LEAC priority. Mr. Chaffee said he would be willing to work on Chapter 13 if the Planning Board considers working on stretch codes.

5. ENERGY & FACILITIES MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Montgomery discussed the following:

- He presented a graph based on data from Liberty Utilities on power outages. He said just in this district, there were 2,600 outages over the last 10 years with an increasing rate of 10% each year.
- He talked to LCI and C-Power about getting proposals to manage the City's demand response. He said they asked him to provide a year's worth of hourly interval data for our two big wastewater plants, which he has requested from Liberty. He said the proposals will be presented to DPW management and City Manager.
- He discussed artificial intelligence and its expected exponential growth in power usage.
- He may have to take some time off soon to attend to family matters.

6. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No members of the public spoke.

7. UPCOMING EVENTS

None

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

9. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by James Mashal to adjourn the meeting at 5:57pm. The Motion was seconded by Jon Chaffee.

Roll Call Vote:

Voting in Favor – Mr. Bromberg, Mr. Rothe, Mr. Benzel, Mr. Below, Mr. Mashal, Mr. Chaffee, Ms. Boschert

Voting Against – None

****The MOTION was approved (7-0).***

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paula Roux
Recording Secretary