



## **ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**(Subcommittee of the Lebanon Energy Advisory Committee)**

**City Hall Council Chambers**

**May 9<sup>th</sup> 2024, 3:00 PM**

**-- Final --**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sherry Boschert (Chair), Tom Benzel, Bill Stearns, Clifton Below.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** none.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Tad Montgomery, Energy & Facilities Manager (note taker)

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Vijay Prithiv (remote)

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order by Ms. Boschert at 3:05 PM.

2. **APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES:**

Mr. Benzel moved to accept the April 2024 EV Subcommittee minutes; Mr. Stearns seconded. Approved unanimously.

3. **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. **Granite State Clean Fleet Grant for Street Sweepers** – Mr. Montgomery said that the grant is now waiting for approval by the Governor and Executive Council.
- B. **Employee EV Charging Policy** – Ms. Boschert, Mr. Benzel, and Mr. Montgomery gave an update on the development of this policy. One big issue needs to be finalized before the draft policy can be presented to the City Manager – how City Staff with EVs will record their usage. DPW Management would prefer an automated system built into the City's chargers, but this would require replacement of the two existing 'dumb' city chargers or finding a technology that would raise their IQ's adequately to document usage by vehicle or user. We are working with Greg Ames to find such a conversion technology while the DPW looks for funds to purchase them.
- C. **Drive Electric Earth Day Event** – Sherry Boschert gave an overview of the event. It was quite successful, despite the cold weather, with 198 registrants and total attendance estimated at 200-300. There was a discussion of possible future expos and on the possibility of EV 'ride-and-drive' events in conjunction with other local events such as farmers markets and Solarfest in Vermont.

- D. **Solar e-Bike Charging Stations** – Mr. Montgomery gave an overview of his discussion of this project with the Ped-Bike Committee and said that a meeting is planned on the project for the week of May 20<sup>th</sup>. The Ped-Bike Committee gave good feedback on possible locations for a station in the downtown area, requested that it be a ‘secure’ place for bikes, and requested that the project also include covered storage for regular bikes in both locations. The big issue now will be finding funds for the two installations.
- E. **Letter to the School Board** – Ms. Boschert said that there was not anything to report on this.
- F. **EV Infrastructure Plan for Lebanon TIF District** – Ms. Boschert gave an update on recent work on this project. There has been a conversation with Liberty Utilities about the project and a letter has been sent to Liberty requesting their input and cost estimates for installing EV charging stations (EVCS) at various locations in the TIF District. Ms. Boschert & Mr. Montgomery are drafting an RFP for this TIF District EVCS in conjunction with their participation in a Harvard Kennedy School bootcamp on green procurement. Ms. Boschert said that they would appreciate any assistance that the committee members could provide on the RFP.

#### 4. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Preferred Acronym** – Ms. Boschert led a discussion on acronyms for EV charging accoutrements. The Subcommittee settled on EVCS – Electric Vehicle Charging Stations.
- B. **New Funding Opportunities** – Ms. Boschert mentioned three new funding opportunities and asked if any Subcommittee member was interested in working on them. If so, Mr. Montgomery said that the next step would be to contact him and Rebecca Owens to talk through the grant opportunity. Grants that Ms. Boschert referred to were:
- Energy Efficiency & Community Block Grants Program. Grafton County might be receiving funds through EECBG. Mr. Below recommended reaching out to Councilor/State Rep. Sykes.
  - Taking Charge Accelerator Fund – a new federal initiative with \$58M to assist communities without access to home charging infrastructure.
  - NH Clean Diesel (DERA) Program

c. **Lebanon's Fleet EV's** – Ms. Boschert led a discussion around which vehicles the City is transitioning to electric, and showed a spreadsheet from the recent Greenhouse Gas Report with potential vehicles for conversion and their year of replacement. There were questions about which EVs are planned for purchase next year.

d. **Other:**

- Strategic Plan – Mr. Below said that the City Council adopted all of the strategic plan recommendations from LEAC and the EV Subcommittee without edits. Mr. Montgomery asked if this included the alteration of the City's GHG goal to 100% renewable by 2050 and 50% renewable by 2035, and Mr. Below said yes.
- Liberty Time-Of-Use Rates – Ms. Boschert briefly discussed new TOU rates for EV charging that Liberty has proposed.

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- **Upper Valley EV Expo** – New London will host the 2024 Upper Valley EV Expo on the last weekend on September 29<sup>th</sup>, noon – 4 PM, New London Historic Village. Info: (802) 291-3939, [WhyPumpGas@gmail.com](mailto:WhyPumpGas@gmail.com), <http://UVEVExpo.org>.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 3 PM, Council Chambers, City Hall.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Benzel moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:01 PM, seconded by Mr. Below. The motion passed unanimously without delay or acrimony.

Respectfully submitted,

*Tad Montgomery*