

FINAL

**LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
THURSDAY JUNE 20, 2024 3:30PM**

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

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 3:32pm.

Mr. Montgomery reviewed the City's meeting in-person and REMOTE attendance policies and procedures. Ms. Boschert said she is attending remotely due to health concerns in her family. Mr. Mashal said he is attending remotely because he is feeling under the weather.

2. PRESENTATION BY EMILY MONROE, DIRECTOR OF THE DARTMOUTH COLLEGE COOK ENGINEERING DESIGN CENTER

Chair Bromberg said, since Ms. Monroe had not yet arrived at the meeting, they would move on to the next item on the agenda for this meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 16, 2024

A MOTION was made by Mr. Chaffee to approve the May 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes. The Motion was seconded by Woody Rothe.

Roll Call Vote:

**Voting For – Mr. Below, Mr. Kennelly, Mr. Stearns, Mr. Bromberg, Mr. Benzel, Mr. Chaffee
Mr. Rothe, Ms. Boschert, Mr. Mashal**

Voting Against – None

***The MOTION was approved (9-0).**

4. OLD BUSINESS

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

Mr. Below said House Bill 1600 passed but only as a technical fix to the existing municipal aggregation law. He said the Department of Energy said if the bill had passed in full, the governor would have vetoed it.

Mr. Below said, related to the net metering legislations, that the PUC partially accepted the motion for rehearing made by the NH Consumer Advocate and the Community Power Coalition and others. He said there were several questions raised that they said they would charge the utilities to address.

He said the Coalition has been preparing for rate setting. He said, related to a potential discretionary adder to be established, that he has reconsidered the way that would develop under the Coalition's rate policy. He discussed the way that rates are determined.

He said refresh letters have gone out to try to reconnect with customers because, when they move to a new location, they get dropped from the list. He said more than 1,000 additional mailings have gone out in Lebanon to address turnover in participating apartments and rental units. The group discussed rates and the opt-out procedure.

Mr. Below said he and other LEAC members are planning to meet with CPCNH Director of Projects Mark Bollinger to discuss possible collaboration on projects. He said any other members who want to attend are welcome.

B. Landfill Gas to Energy Updates

Mr. Montgomery said the building construction is set to begin on Monday and should be completed by late fall. He said it should go online by winter. He said a contracted company called Waldron Engineering will manage the construction.

C. Municipal Solar Updates

Mr. Montgomery asked LEAC to submit a letter of support for a New Hampshire Municipal Solar grant program of the Department of Energy. He said the grant would be used to help pay for the solar technology and equipment planned for the new fire station.

A MOTION was made by Jon Chaffee to authorize Lebanon Energy Advisory Committee Chair Henry Bromberg to write a letter of support for the New Hampshire DOE Municipal Solar grant application. The Motion was seconded by Sherry Boschert.

Roll Call Vote:

Voting For – Mr. Below, Mr. Kennelly, Mr. Stearns, Mr. Bromberg, Mr. Benzel, Mr. Chaffee Mr. Rothe, Ms. Boschert, Mr. Mashal

Voting Against – None

****The MOTION was approved (9-0).***

D. Rental Decarbonization Pilot Project

Mr. Chaffee said they are changing the name of the project to the Lebanon Energy Savings Program. He said Jason Staples, the UNH Sustainability Institute's fellow, started working in Lebanon in May. He said Mark Goodwin of the Planning Department is helping Mr. Staples create files for the tax assessor data and other software that tracks heat and energy use. He said Beth Beraldi, of the City Manager's office, is creating a survey to determine actual utility data and use. The group discussed how the survey would be distributed and how the resulting data would be catalogued.

E. EV Subcommittee Report: Grant Applications; Public Charging Stations; Public Outreach/Education

Electric Street Sweeper Grant

Ms. Boschert said the City Manager told her that the governor withdrew the Electric Street Sweeper Grant from the Executive Committee's agenda, the funds for the grant have been allocated elsewhere, and the City will not be getting the electric street sweepers this year. Mr. Below suggested a scaled-back plan might be more likely to be approved in the future.

CFI Grant Reapplication

Ms. Boschert said that, although the City's application for a CFI grant was initially denied, she was contacted by the U.S. DOT and was told that there was an extra 500 million dollars that is being allocated to communities that applied but did not get the grant. She said the City can resubmit its application for the additional funds without making any changes. She said they expect to hear if Lebanon will receive the funds by summer of 2024.

TIF District EV Chargers

She said the EV Subcommittee continues to work on the plan to use the tax increment financing funds to install EV infrastructure in the TIF area downtown and she will present this to the City Council on July 3rd. She said the Council meeting agenda packet includes a proposal for Solaflect solar EV charging stations. She said the team is asking LEAC to recommend that the City Council approve the use of TIF funds to purchase a Soaflect 4-port solar EV charging station.

The group discussed the intent for the use of TIF funds. Mr. Mashal noted that, with the City facing large budget deficits, the TIF funds are being viewed as a sort of slush fund to allow for improvements in Lebanon. He said he did not see spending TIF funds on these solar EV charging stations as a disciplined use of City funds unless there were a financial analysis done to show it.

A MOTION was made by Sherry Boschert that the Lebanon Energy Advisory Committee recommend to the Lebanon City Council that the Council approve using TIF funds to purchase a Solaflect four-port solar EV charging station. The Motion was seconded by Tom Benzel.

Roll Call Vote:

Voting For – Mr. Below, Mr. Kennelly, Mr. Stearns, Mr. Bromberg, Mr. Benzel, Mr. Chaffee Mr. Rothe, Ms. Boschert

Voting Against – Mr. Mashal

****The MOTION was approved (8-1).***

Pole-mounted EV Chargers

Mr. Below said Massachusetts passed a law to allow utility pole-mounted EV chargers. Ms. Boschert said they have a meeting with Liberty Utilities to discuss this idea.

Ebike Chargers

Ms. Boschert said the City Manager wanted to install solar ebike charging stations in the TIF district. She said she and Mr. Montgomery met with several interested stakeholders in the Upper Valley to discuss the installation of ebike charging stations at the Kilton Library and on the Lebanon Mall plaza and/or in the tunnel.

F. Electric School Bus Project Letter

Mr. Bromberg said the letter sent to the School Board regarding electric school buses had been received by Superintendent Amy Allen, who said she would bring it up at the June 12th School Board meeting. Mr. Bromberg said Superintendent Allen sent a response just before this LEAC meeting in which she said the School Board had decided not to pursue applying for a grant for electric school buses at this time.

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

Mr. Rothe said that he is waiting for energy use intensity data from City Manager Mulholland for the buildings that the City is proposing to build for staff housing.

H. Calculate Past & Future Savings Through Sustainability Efforts

Mr. Montgomery said the City Manager had been approached by Chair Bromberg and asked if this accounting could be added to Mr. Montgomery's list of tasks. The City Manager declined the request at this time.

I. City Master Plan - Energy Chapter Update

Chair Bromberg said he, Mr. Rothe, Mr. Chafee, and Ms. Boschert have formed a review team and will meet in early July to resume writing the Energy Chapter (13) of the Master Plan, specifically Sections C, E, and F.

[Mr. Montgomery said that he had heard from Emily Monroe and said she is not able to present at this meeting. He said he would set up a meeting with her and invited LEAC members to attend.]

J. Thermal Energy Network; Water Energy Transfer

Mr. Montgomery said he met with Ms. Debbie New, who is the founder of Vermont Community Thermal Networks. He said that she has received funding from the Cliff Foundation to help communities create community driven thermal energy networks. He said this company is similar to the SHARC Energy company, which he and Mr. Bromberg have been meeting with over the last several months. He said he had already shared some materials that Ms. New had provided to LEAC members but will resend them if needed. He said she is very excited to work in the downtown Lebanon area and

would be willing to give a workshop presentation in Lebanon and invite potential stakeholders. Mr. Bromberg said more information is available at vctn.org

K. Glen Hydroelectric Facility Relicensing

Mr. Montgomery said the deadline to submit comments has passed.

L. Clean 100 Decal

Mr. Montgomery said he had created a laminated sign for City buildings to post to announce the fact that the facilities use CLEAN 100 power. With LEAC's approval he will make window decals of these that can be given to any business or organization that has opted up to Clean 100 and would like to publicize it. The group discussed the window decal's design. Mr. Below explained the efforts being undertaken in CPCNH to encourage the use of CLEAN 100 power.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Update Energy Building Codes (Planning Board)

Mr. Kennelly said building codes are established by the state and do not involve the Planning Board. Mr. Below explained recent legislative activity related to Energy Conservation Codes that has happened at the state level. Mr. Below suggested this item be put on hold and see what changes have happened to the law that affect these codes. Later in the meeting he gave updates on the relevant legislation.

B. Creation of Environmental Justice Task Force

Mr. Chafee said an Environmental Justice Task Force has been created. The Task Force has been interviewing City departments about city policies or practices that might differentially affect disadvantaged city residents. He said the team also has been working on developing listening sessions for disadvantaged residents who may not normally participate in City activities. The group decided to make a report from the Environmental Justice Task Force a regular LEAC meeting agenda item.

6. ENERGY & FACILITIES MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Montgomery discussed the following:

- He was contacted by Bruce Kneuer of the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration to hear what Lebanon's experience was with RSA 53-F, which enabled property assessed clean energy (PACE). Mr. Montgomery said it has not been enacted in Lebanon yet. He said Mr. Kneuer wanted to know about Lebanon's experience with it, why it was not enacted, and if there was discussion of enacting it in the future to assist with Lebanon's green energy goals.
- There was a webinar on June 12 by the electricity broker Competitive Energy Services, specifically in the Northeast, that he said was quite good. He said he could share the presentation.
- He has been working with Liberty Utilities regarding double billing that occurred related to the streetlights. He said he was told Lebanon had actually been under-billed for services

since the streetlight conversion happened. He said he is continuing to look into this situation with City Electrician Ted Makalinaw.

- He has been working with the Lebanon Library Director Sean Flemming regarding renovations of the heat pump at the Kilton Library. He said an RFP is being created on that soon.
- Greg Ames was not able to give the talk to the Municipal group of the New Hampshire Network on Liberty's Home Battery Pilot Project this month and it has been put off until next month.

Regarding agenda item 5.A above, Mr. Below said a law goes into effect July 1 that prohibits municipalities from adopting the most recent version of the State Building code. He said this legislature and this governor has prohibited communities from using the most recent version of the International Building Code until the state updates it.

7. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No members of the public spoke.

8. UPCOMING EVENTS

Drive Electric in September in New London.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

10. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Tom Benzel to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 pm. The Motion was seconded by Jon Chaffee.

Roll Call Vote:

Voting For – Mr. Below, Mr. Kennelly, Mr. Bromberg, Mr. Benzel, Mr. Chaffee Mr. Rothe, Ms. Boschert, Mr. Mashal

Voting Against – None

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paula Roux
Recording Secretary