

LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, the meeting was held virtually via MS Teams

January 21, 2021

4:00 PM

FINAL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Clifton Below (Chair, Council Representative), Greg Ames (Vice-Chair), Jon Chaffee, Woody Rothe, Gene Homicki (alternate), Meghan Butts

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joan Monroe (Planning Board Representative)

STAFF PRESENT: Everett Hammond, Tad Montgomery

GUESTS PRESENT: None

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Clifton Below at 4:05 PM.

ELECTION OF CHAIR: Greg nominated Clifton Below to serve as Chair, Jon seconded. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR: Meghan nominated Greg Ames to serve as Vice-Chair, Jon seconded. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: Jon moved to accept the 12/17/2020 minutes as presented; Meghan seconded. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Joint Power Agreement for Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH), Review and Recommendation to Council: Clifton presented, and the Committee discussed, the Community Power of NH (CPCNH) documents that he plans to present to the City Council.

Revised Scope of Work for NHCDA Grant: Clifton presented, and the Committee discussed, a proposed statement of work for bringing on a contractor to assist in the development of CPCNH and using the NHCDA grant funds to pay the contractor.

Review of Phase 2 options for LED Streetlight Conversions: Everett presented two options for updating the downtown streetlights around Colburn Park and on the Mall. Option 1 uses existing poles, rehabbed as necessary. Option 2 uses new decorative poles. DPW has analyzed the poles and wiring and determined the existing poles are in good shape, pending refinishing

or powder coating. The Committee discussed several options for light fixtures on top of the poles. Clifton moved that the Committee recommend to the City Council that the City pursue the lower cost option 1 (using the existing poles) and consider using 2700K lighting and converting all decorative posts to use dark sky-friendly luminaries. Jon seconded. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

2021 Goals and Work Plan: Deferred to next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

NH Legislative Issues: HB 315 was recently filed at the request of Eversource, which would make significant changes to the municipal aggregation law (RSA 53-E) and make it very difficult for community power to proceed in NH. Clifton described it as “way over-reaching and will gut the Municipal Aggregation Law.” Not scheduled for a hearing for at least 2 weeks; Clifton will send more information to the Committee. There is also a Senate bill being pursued which will fix some minor issues in 53-E without completely gutting the bill.

Other:

- Clifton mentioned that water treatment and wastewater treatment have been on real-time pricing for a couple of years. Voluntary reduction of power usage during peak power usage have resulted in these 2 sites being net exporters of power during the peak hour last summer, reducing the capacity tags of these 2 accounts to 0.
- Woody moved that LEAC recommend that LEAC control access to, and manage contents, of the LEAC sharepoint drive. Additionally, he volunteered to be the LEAC database manager for this purpose. Greg seconded. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.
- Tad discussed the possibility of setting up a fuel buying cooperative for City residents, potentially under the auspices of Lebanon Community Power. Jon and Gene expressed concerns about LCP promoting the use of fossil fuels. Tad mentioned that this was a good way to reach out to potential LCP customers.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Discussion on Building Codes update and City Procurement policy deferred to a future meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

Scheduled for Thursday, February 18th at 4pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Greg to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 PM. The motion was seconded by Jon. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Gregory Ames