

FINAL

LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LEAC)
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Remote Via Microsoft Teams
LebanonNH.gov/Live
March 20, 2025
3:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Henry Bromberg (Chair), Clifton Below, Thomas Benzel, Jonathan Chaffee, Patrick Kenelly, James Mashal (virtual), Woody Rothe, Bill Sterns (virtual)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sherry Boschert

STAFF PRESENT: Chris Kilmer, Asst. Director, Public Works

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Bromberg called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM

2. PREAMBLE – Read by Mr. Chris Kilmer

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**A MOTION was made by Mr. Clifton Below to approve the February 20, 2025 minutes as amended
Seconded by Mr. Tom Benzel*

Amendments:

Changes to first 3 paragraphs under OLD BUSINESS – Mr. Below will email his requested changes to the Recording Secretary

Page 4, Line 42 Craig to Greg

Page 4, Line 22, DuPree to Duprey

** The vote on the MOTION was approved 8-0*

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Legislation 1 PUC Regulations 1 CPCNH / LCP updates; CPCNH

Mr. Clifton Below shared a screen and showed members the home page for CPCNH, and ways to navigate through it. He discussed the fact that there is a current leadership change, a quick history and update about the reserves, current strategies to course correct, rates and rate setting and how it is adjusted, how people can opt in, etc. To date, CPCNH has generated cost savings for consumer, in excess of \$1 million. CPCNH is solvent.

Currently, CPCNH is calling on legislators, leaders in the community as well as residents to take immediate action to show their support for HB760 to both protect community power and energy market fairness. “This bill ensure that utilities cannot unfairly shift costs onto Community Power customers (as

they are proposing to do) maintaining a level playing field and preserving local decision-making. Without HB 760, ratepayers who have chosen Community Power or competitive suppliers could be forced to subsidize cost overruns from utility supply services. We urge legislators from both parties to stand with their communities and ensure this bill moves forward.”

B. Landfill Gas to Energy Project

Mr. Chris Kilmer said that all mechanical issues have been resolved, and the plant should be operational by early April if all goes as planned.

C. Municipal Solar

No updates/ temporarily archived

D. Lebanon Energy Savings Program

Mr. Jonathan Chaffee spoke about this. Currently they are working with Resilience Building Group and trying to get a list of landlords in the area, and then the plan is to connect these. It was suggested that Jonathan and his team get with the City Manager and/or the City Clerk to try to obtain this information. If they get this, they will do a mailing.

E. EV Subcommittee Report

Ms. Boschert is away so Mr. Bill Stearns spoke on this subcommittee’s behalf.

April 26th and April 27th, there will be open house events and green energy projects will be on display for the community at several residences in the area. For privacy reasons, people must preregister. It was not stated where residents go to preregister.

F. Energy Efficiency Standards of the City's Staff Housing Initiative

Mr. Woody Rothe said that they are in need of a building design with continuous insulation, before they can proceed. Mr. Patrick Kennelly said these will be modular homes, and these can be high efficiency.

G. City Master Plan-Energy Chapter Update

Mr. Chaffee said that he submitted several suggestions to Mr. Kilmer, and suggested that all LEAC members review, to see if they are in support of his suggestions. Mr. Kilmer forwarded this document to all LEAC members; they were encouraged to review this document soon, so they can communicate with Mr. Chaffee or discuss this at the next meeting.

Some items Mr. Chaffee included in his Master Plan proposal are:

- Implement solar phase 3 when allowed by POC regulations
- Keep open the possibility of developing large scale solar on private properties when regulations permit
- Investigate the feasibility of low head hydro development at the Mascoma River by water treatment plant

- Ask Planning Department to investigate benchmarking

H. Strategic Plan Update

Much of the above will be included in this update once completed. Mr. Kilmer will incorporate all these items and work on the Master Plan to submit to management.

I. LEAC goals-review, prioritize

Mr. Below said that doing a seasonal event, such as the one Ms. Boschert is planning for the Spring, are things that LEAC can help facilitate. Mr. Kilmer said that there is an EV event being planned for Saturday, September 6th at the Hartford, VT. LEAC is participating again as they have in the past. Mr. Chaffee suggested sustainable Lebanon.

J. Environmental Justice Task Force-Update

No updates. Mr. Chaffee is working on getting a report completed.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Thomas Benzel asked what the process is for Mr. Below to stay on LEAC as a commission member to add a position, so that Mr. Below can take a seat on LEAC (he has relinquished his role as Assistant Mayor to be effective later this month). Mr. Mashal volunteered to become an Alternate member of LEAC.

Mr. Bromberg will look into the rules to see how they can proceed.

6. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Fran Cossell, Ward 2 (member of the public) attended the meeting today. He thanked LEAC for all of their hard work.

Mr. Below spoke of House Bill 707 is about landfills and could negatively impact Lebanon. Previously municipalities were exempted from these regulations.

7. UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2025 Upper Valley Earth Day (last weekend) events at a school and several homes –website forthcoming

EV Expo – Saturday, September 6th

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

9. ADJOURNMENT

**A MOTION to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Thomas Benzel
Seconded by Mr. Jonathan Chaffee*

****The vote on the MOTION was approved 8-0***

***The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Cinda Mersel

Recording Secretary