

FINAL

LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LEAC)
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Remote Via Microsoft Teams
LebanonNH.gov/Live
July 17, 2025
3:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Henry Bromberg (Chair), Clifton Below, Sherry Boschert (remote)
Jonathan Chaffee, James Mashal (arrived 4:10 PM), Woody Rothe,
Bill Sterns

MEMBERS ABSENT: Patrick Kenelly, Thomas Benzel

STAFF PRESENT: Rick Brown, Asst. Director, Public Works (Chris Kilmer on vacation)

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Bromberg called the meeting to order at 3:54 PM

2. PREAMBLE – Read by Mr. Rick Brown

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

*Ms. Sherry Boschert MOVED to approve the June 19, 2025, minutes as amended.
Seconded by Mr. Jonathan Chaffee.*

** The vote on the MOTION was approved 6-0.*

4. OLD BUSINESS

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

Mr. Below is taking care of LEAC's continued participation in Clean Energy New Hampshire, through Mr. Chris Kilmer. There is a budget for this in 2025, under DPW. In exchange for the City's membership, they offer many benefits, including expertise in many areas that LEAC works in.

Mr. Mashal and Mr. Below attended a CPCNH meeting earlier today. Mr. Below shared a screen with the report that he presented at this meeting.

Mr. Below said that if consumers drop out of the CPCNH program, they will not automatically be reenrolled, so they might want to sign up for emails for rate changes so that they can opt back in if they want. They can do this on the City of Lebanon website. The customer service number is 1-866-603-7697 (POWR).

Mr. Mashal commented that CPCNH has done a good job of correctly allocating costs to each member. We have rates by individual community, and they have very strong reserves. They are able to track more accurately now. They are moving towards cost causation.

Mr. Below said they will eventually have the capacity to have differential rates by community, possibly as early as next year. And they will have more rate options, so all communities are making the same proportionate contributions to joint reserves.

Generally speaking, all rates are up.

B. Landfill Gas to Energy Project

Mr. Rick Brown said he was aware of some issues with this program, but he thinks it is now up and running again.

Mr. Bromberg asked if there have been any efforts to recoup some of the costs of this project? Mr. Below said that Mr. Kilmer is working on this and that the City can still file for the refundable tax credit. He said that there needs to be a usage of at least 52% methane. Current usage will need to be confirmed by testing. He thinks it is now well over 52% methane. Liberty considered it placed in service in December 2024.

C. Lebanon Energy Savings Program

Mr. Chaffee said they are proceeding with a mailing to approximately 300 landlords, and he anticipates these will go out soon.

D. EV Subcommittee Report

Ms. Boschert (went first under New Business) and started by sharing that Mr. Sterns has an EV demonstration set up at the Enfield Dog Park; the Public is invited.

Ms. Boschert recently attended a Zoning amendments meeting (now under the Planning Dept. purview) as well as an Economic Development Commission meeting since she was aware they are making proposed amendments to EV charging stations. They agreed that since they had not yet seen LEACs proposal, they will include that in discussions at their next meeting, to be held on August 13, 2025 at 1:30PM. Ms. Boschert will attend that meeting as well.

They got back 3 RFPs that met the guidelines. She, along with Mr. Chris Kilmer, met again with Universal, one of the 3 respondents. Their next step would be for the EV Subcommittee to make a proposal to the Downtown Tax Increment Financing District Advisory Board. The reason for this is that without the grant money (which has been blocked by The Republican Party), they cannot afford fast charging stations. So, they propose to set this aside for now and focus on Level 2 charging stations.

It was noted that of the three RFPs that the City received, none had options for the companies to pay for the installation. The options were for the City of Lebanon to pay for installation, and then either the City can own these charging stations, or the companies would own them, and give the City 20-50% of revenues.

Ms. Boschert has learned that they have approximately \$3M left over from the VW settlement fund, and that this money will become available for putting charging in our communities as early as later this year or in 2026. The EV Subcommittee wants to propose to the TIF District, to possibly use some of those

funds to install Level 2 charging stations in the downtown area of Lebanon. Two of the three companies are contenders.

Ms. Boschert asked for approval from LEAC to continue to move this forward, so that they can possibly get a rebate for putting in charging from the federal government, of between 6-30%, but this is only available from now until June 2026. This is why time is of the essence in getting these installed.

Ms. Boschert asked and received LEAC's okay to move forward with presenting this fund usage to the TIF at their next meeting, July 30, 2025 (Wednesday), 6:00PM. Just to give some perspective, if they funded 10 of these charging stations, this represents approximately \$200,000.

Ms. Boschert is compiling a package of information for TIF, so that this can be included in the Agenda Packet.

Ms. Boschert told of two upcoming events – see below under Upcoming Events.

Ms. Boschert also met with Rebecca Owen, grant writer for the City. She is preparing a document to present that could potentially provide \$38,000 grant money.

Ms. Boschert excused herself from the meeting at 4:17PM, due to her feeling unwell.

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

No updates today; Mr. Kennelly is absent from today's meeting.

F. City Master Plan-Energy Chapter Update

Mr. Bromberg said that their committee will review this and make any wordsmithing or content changes if needed.

G. LEAC goals-review, prioritize

Mr. Bromberg said there is no need for this to continue to be on the agenda, so it will be removed for now.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed zoning changes for EV charging

This was covered earlier by Ms. Boschert (see under EV Subcommittee Report heading).

Mr. Mashal said that his seat expires soon. It was agreed he will stay on LEAC and there is no need to reapply.

6. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC None

7. UPCOMING EVENTS

A.

July 28, 2025 (Monday), there will be a ZOOM Lunch & Learn geared towards housing developers, though anyone can attend. It will be presented by Ms. Boschert and explains what is in the LEAC proposed amendments and outlines Level 1 and 2, etc.

September 6, 2025 (Saturday), Upper Valley EV Expo, from 11:00AM to 4:00PM at the Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street, White River Junction, VT 05001

Key Chevrolet has confirmed their participation along with New Car Ford.

Ms. Boschert has lined up several co-sponsors. **She asked for LEAC members to help at this event and people can learn more by going to UVEVEXPO.ORG.**

Mr. Chaffee shared that there is an upcoming Clean Energy New Hampshire (CENH) fundraiser event on July 21, 2025 (Monday), 6-8 PM at the Irving Institute. He offered to send LEAC members the link to RSVP to attend. Several of them plan to attend.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS None

9. ADJOURNMENT

*Mr. Woody Rothe MOVED for adjournment.
Seconded by Mr. James Mashal.*

**The vote on the MOTION was approved 6-0.*

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Cinda Mersel
Recording Secretary