

FINAL

LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LEAC)
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Remote Via Microsoft Teams
LebanonNH.gov/Live
August 21, 2025
3:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Henry Bromberg (Chair), Thomas Benzel ,Clifton Below,
Sherry Boschert (arrived remotely 3:42), Jonathan Chaffee,
Woody Rothe, Bill Sterns

MEMBERS ABSENT: Patrick Kenelly, James Mashal

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

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Bromberg called the meeting to order at 3:37 PM

2. PREAMBLE – Read by Mr. Chris Kilmer

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. July 17, 2025

*Ms. Woody Rothe MOVED to approve the July 17, 2025, minutes as amended.
Seconded by Mr. Jonathan Chaffee.*

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

- July 17, 2025

Amendment: Page 4, Line 16, regarding future events change CPCNH to CENH

4. OLD BUSINESS

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

Mr. Below provided narrative updates for CPCNH starting by saying that they had a productive meeting retreat recently, with a lot of focus on what their plans are for the next year.

All of their bills got tabled, which means they can be considered again in the 2nd year. They are trying to collaborate more with UNITIL since they are more forward thinking. UNITIL seems open to this.

The Department Of Energy is proposing a new set of interconnection rules that are very good. One example cited is the interstate renewable energy council rec. The current rules are limiting whereas the new rules would be more logical and flexible.

There is a hiring committee working on hiring a permanent executive director, as well as a director for power and operations. They continue to work on their policies and regulations in a way that helps them

avoid their past mistakes in not following their policies. Mr. Below said that though their rates are higher in many applications, they are still very much in line, and so they have seen very little attrition. Also, this coalition has been able to save residents much more money than they have lost recently with higher rates.

Liberty still has a period of prior under collections, that they would still like to add to the rate, and if they do this, it will bring their rates up to CPCNH rates or higher. The Commission has told them to hold off on this for now. The same is true for Eversource.

Currently there are 69 total members in the community power coalition, and all but 15 of these members have launched. Others will in all likelihood wait until rates adjust.

Any developers wanting to do projects in New Hampshire might start pulling out, according to CENH because they cannot get the 20-year terms that they need.

Another piece of good news under consideration for years is the jurisdictional issue over whether there can be within State wholesale sales that are State jurisdictionals under the limited producer construct, which would allow a market-based approach where the coalition could contract directly for the output. States have exclusive jurisdiction over wholesale sales (like retail sales) that are not part of interstate commerce. For example, the output at the landfill will *not* be used out of State, so they should be able to buy that output, but currently they cannot.

A data platform (for standard model of data/"green button") that has been under development for a long time, finally has issued an RFP and they are starting to evaluate the responses to that , with the goal to have a recommendation to present to the hub developer and the project manager. Other states are looking at what New Hampshire has developed and are modeling off of some of the coalition's work.

B. Landfill Gas to Energy Project

Mr. Kilmer said they are up running and producing power. After some additional testing this month, it will be turned over to the City of Lebanon. They are producing about 400 kilowatt an hour, based on gas production; it is running at a steady rate.

A sampling mechanism has been ordered, which should allow for testing on site and being able to show the 52% methane, which will then allow them to apply them to move forward with the direct pay, and get that reimbursed.

C. Lebanon Energy Savings Program

Mr. Chaffee is waiting for confirmation that their flyers went out to all landlords in the area. This should be completed in the next several weeks. Also, Ms. Boschert posted this on the Lebanon List Serve and on the Facebook Upper Valley Group; she will repost after Labor Day.

Mr. Rothe said that many landlords are skittish to interact on this. They plan to be able to provide before and after energy use to encourage other participants.

D. EV Subcommittee Report

Mr. Sterns made headway with Ledyard Charter School, according to an update on ebikes by Ms. Boschert. They are willing to host the solar panels on their roof as well as the ebike charging stations. Mr. Sterns will continue work on this.

The potential revisions to the Zoning ordinance was presented by Ms. Boschert to the Tax Increment Financing District Meeting, even though they did not have a quorum. She also presented to the Economic Development Commission meeting to try to gain support for LEAC's proposed changes to Zoning for EV chargers at new development.

Also, she got a call from the developer of Woolen Mill Apartments, Mr. Jon Livadas. They will meet in person next week. This project encompasses 183 apartments and a riverwalk along the Mascoma River that will be open to the public. Her hope for this meeting is to come to an understanding and better dialog between the parties.

Ms. Boschert also conducted a webinar where she presented information explaining low power Level 2 charging and LEAC's proposed amendments to Zoning. This webinar was designed for developers specifically; she did not collect emails. There is a link on the City of Lebanon website, on the EV Subcommittee page there is a link to this same webinar.

Mr. Bromberg attended the webinar and said it was so helpful having this information explained simply.

RFPs for EV charging stations, including the need for public charging stations, are complete and this process has started.

The City Council has voted to keep the EDC in place; some money still could be available for EV charging stations. She's awaiting information for the next meeting, and she will again attend.

The EV Subcommittee will also be applying for a Grant for this project as well. She is working with Rebecca Owen to get the Grant application completed.

E. Energy Efficiency Standards of the City's Staff Housing Initiative
None

F. City Master Plan-Energy Chapter Update
Mr. Rothe and others will work with Chair Bromberg for next steps. This will be discussed at an upcoming LEAC meeting. Ms. Hembree is finalizing her work on this as well.

G. LEAC goals-review, prioritize
This topic will be eliminated

5. NEW BUSINESS None

6. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC None

7. UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Ms. Boschert has already lined up 6-7 co-sponsors. She asked for LEAC members to help at this event. They have approximately several people registered, including 7 people showing cars (no Teslas for the first time in recent history).

Ms. Boschert asked for all LEAC members to “talk up” this event, to increase the attendance.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS None

Chair Bromberg said that he, Mr. Chaffee, and Ms. Boschert were interviewed by a number of Dartmouth Environmental Studies students, and he was pleased to know that this younger generation has an interest in this. They also met with the EV Subcommittee.

These students will also be doing a podcast and will share this with LEAC.

Mr. Below commented (and complimented) that he recently read Ms. Boschert's article in the Lebanon Times. It was about the Spring event held in Lebanon and was well attended. People have diverse interests in this arena, and Ms. Boschert was able to bring her idea to fruition and bring diverse people together for this informative event.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Benzel MOVED for adjournment.

Seconded by Mr. Sterns.

**The vote on the MOTION was approved (7-0).*

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Cinda Mersel
Recording Secretary