

FINAL

**LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LEAC)  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Remote Via Microsoft Teams  
LebanonNH.gov/Live  
March 19, 2026  
3:30 PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Henry Bromberg (Chair), Clifton Below,  
Sherry Boschert (remote), Jonathan Chaffee, Patrick Kenelly  
Woody Rothe, Bill Stearns

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** James Mashal

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

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**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. January 15, 2026

*Mr. Woody Rothe MOVED to approve the January 15, 2026 minutes as amended.  
Seconded by Ms. Sherry Boschert*

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

Amendments:

Pg. 4, line 7 change added to add

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

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

Mr. Clifton Below shared news from CPCNH and as usual, there has been a lot of activity. He started by sharing the CPCNH website to show LEAC members different things they can go back to look at if they are interested. At the Board's last meeting they voted to promote Mr. Henry Herndon to Executive Director. He had been acting as their General Manager for the past year. This news has been well received. That announcement is under the section News and Media Hub.

Other news was a Treasurer's Report. Up until a January 22-27 winter storm Fern (followed by other severe winter weather), they were on track to meet their financial forecast, but the storms caused them to "burn through" \$8 million in losses in a matter of a few weeks. \$6M of that was due to the Daisy (Daisy Ancillary Services Initiative by ISO New England) price spike, which he delved into to explain what that is, sharing a graph as well. It's a new market that was created last March and pricing had been \$3 a MW

hour (3/10 of a cent per kWh roughly), but in January the rate went up to \$42 per MW hour. It has set them back from having strong positive reserves.

Liberty recently proposed a rate increase starting May 1, which will take their rate higher than CPCNH, across the board. He anticipates they will stay that way for some time. Their proposed rate is 2/10 higher than CPCNH for residential. Again, all of this detailed information is available for review on the CPCNH website.

Next, he reviewed consumer participation in CPCNH. As of March 1, 2026, the participation rate in Lebanon is 62%; only 2.1% of this population as opted out. 24% are “unenrolled by default”, representing approximately 2,100 households that they will work on offering CPCNH in an upcoming refresh.

Some legislative updates:

- The Bill to repeal the local solar property tax exemption was laid on the table where it died last week.
- House Bill 1733, based on a bill they introduced a year ago (that got set aside) got a unanimous vote out of committee. This bill says utility default service costs have to be recovered from the utility default service customers, thereby not allowing cost shifting, and it also indicates that they should not be in the spot market so much.
- Two other important bills- Enable storage in conjunction with net metering as well as enabling standalone storage including strong directionality that the utility should give credit for avoided transmission costs to storage.

Mr. Below does a monthly report and he can put these into the Agenda Packets for LEAC going forward. This will be a way to share this information locally and share his activity as Chair of that Committee. This report provides detail about the bills they are working on along with regulatory updates. He also thinks there will be an article in The Valley News about recent activities.

Another headline is on Unitil’s settlement agreement on their electric distribution rate case. Changes will use the actual hourly interval data for each customer in load settlement. This will allow them to offer more innovative rates and help customers save costs by helping them shift flexible loads off of peak period of costs. They can then have individual customer capacity tags.

Another really big development is that they have agreed to include in their RFP that the new load settlement vendor should have the capability to take *negative* loads and count them with positive loads instead of turning them into zeros. This means they can serve net meter customers. It also means they could compensate customers with batteries for exporting power to the grid to help shave costs at high demand hours. Ultimately this benefits everybody.

Unitil has also agreed to pursuing the EDI changes, the electronic data interchange that would provide competitive suppliers with time of use data according to their time of use periods, which is good. It’s a three part energy time of use rate. Additionally, their Chief Technology Officer invited CPCNH to collaborate with them on testing Green Button Connect, a platform that will allow customers to securely share their energy usage data in near real time. So as soon as Unitil collects the data they will transmit it thru API on a continuous basis, so it would continuously allow CPCNH to get granular interval data to customers.

This will allow CPCNH to offer their customers a value proposition to help them manage their power usage.

B. Landfill Gas to Energy Project: compost issue

Mr. Chris Kilmer shared a picture of what their staff dealt with for two days in February as they cleaned out the silos. They had to wear Tyvek suits and respirators for protection from dust from the activated carbon that is used to clean the gas. They will need to do this about 6 times each year, and they will try to complete most of this type of work in the warmer months.

Unison finally did the training that was to have been done when the equipment was purchased. It is back up and running, though they're only at 600-800 kilowatts an hour; they were at approximately 1,843 megawatts produced since last January, so it's not cranking out as much as they had anticipated, but he said they have the capping being done this Fall which he thinks will help.

As previously reported, they have submitted all information to get the rec credits, and he thinks they will receive money for these credits next month.

Mr. Below interjected that Representative Tom Corman's bill to make it so that there can be New Hampshire recs passed the House on consent and got a unanimous vote out of the committee. It's scheduled to go before the Senate next week, and they will support it through the Senate as well. So, assuming this passes, the City should be able to switch to New Hampshire recs. The advantage is that the coalition could buy all those recs so they can claim them as New Hampshire generation. Mr. Kilmer things they are locked in for two more years under a three year contract with Knollwood.

C. EV Subcommittee Report

Mr. Tom Benzel has stepped down from LEAC and the EV subcommittee as well; his term just ended. Ms. Sherry Boschert said both Bill Stearns and she need to reapply as their term is expiring soon as well.

The e-bike project is moving forward and Mascoma Bank wants to give them money. She and Mr. Stearns have been considering rolling requests for funds into a repeat T-Mobile grant application. She thinks with the paring down of the ebike charging station to a three season station, based on some rough calculations, she thinks the money that Mascoma is providing should cover all of this. So, they are not going to roll that into the grant process.

In late January, they received a \$2,500 donation from an individual (not named). Mr. Stearns has worked on the specs for all of the parts needed and what they will cost, so they have a solid budget.

Ms. Boschert has been working with Ms. Rebecca Owens, Senior Planner, City of Lebanon, to resubmit the T-Mobile grant. LEAC had applied for a grant with them last Fall but didn't get it (it was for 2 level 2 charging stations).

To this end, Ms. Boschert ask for LEAC to write a letter of support. Mr. Kilmer said that no Motion is needed, rather Chair Henry Bromberg will write this letter of support and provide this to Ms. Boschert.

The Upper Valley Earth Week is progressing, and will take place an entire week, April 20-26, 2026. She is finishing a PDF Guide. This event will raise another \$1,000 for the E-bike project, by selling ads in the

Guide. There will be approximately 44 pages in the guide with approximately 22 homes being showcased, and something new this year is that there will also be several commercial as well as some non-profit sites participating and showcasing their locations. There are 3 farms, a Co Op supermarket, 2 colleges, and some non-profits participating, to name a few. There is something for everybody. Also, there will be scheduled tours, some during the week.

Ms. Boschert will send me the URL information to be included in the Minutes if possible.

**Sustainable Lebanon is this year's sponsor!**

D. Lebanon Energy Savings Program – no updates

E. UV's 'Energy' Committee's meeting recap

They met with Vital Communities and will start working with LEAC in the direction they had hoped. There will be more to report at an upcoming meeting.

F. LEAC Priorities for 2026

a. New subcommittee: Energy efficiency in City Building

Chair Bromberg will get started on this.

b. EV Subcommittee: pursue EV charger funding

Ms. Boschert provided her update – see above

c. Lebanon Energy Savings Subcommittee: publicize resources for energy savings and fossil fuel reduction in the residential heating sector – no updates

d. C-PACER: Support City adoption: organize a conference to highlight C-PACER programs

Mr. Below thinks the next step on C-PACER is to publicize this locally and let people know that these financing options are available, up to 30 years for much more comprehensive, deeper energy retrofits and that the program does allow for some resiliency investments that don't necessarily have a payback.

Mr. Chaffee added that when they talked about this at the recent conference, they also talked about the opportunity to build relationships with some of the major corporations who have commitments to energy efficiency and sustainability and then we could draw them into discussions about what makes sense, what the City has done, and what some companies have done on their own. He mentioned Novo Nordisk as a possible interested entity, since they have some ambitious growth goals.

Ms. Boschert posed that collaborating with the Upper Valley Business Alliance in a conference could be a good idea. She also gave an example of how the City of Hanover is organizing their biggest energy users, and how they meet regularly. This could be a good road map for Lebanon as well; ways to be greener. She suggested someone in LEAC reach out to the top energy users to bring this together and possibly facilitate a conference.

Mr. Doug Kogan was in attendance at today's LEAC meeting.

e. Reduce streetlight levels -no updates

f. Consider a local adder on the Lebanon Community Power bases rate.

Mr. Chaffee said that it is possible that the adder could raise money and could combine with the savings from the energy efficiency measures in any particular City building, and with financing, this could make a smaller demand on the capital improvement fund. This could have the net effect of lowering the need to raise money for taxes to cover ongoing fuel costs.

Mr. Patrick Kenelly asked for Chair Bromberg to contact him regarding the Energy Efficiency Subcommittee; he anticipates having more time to contribute, starting in the Fall.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **HB 1002: Repeal of Solar Exception – take action?** – no action necessary -this bill has died on the table, though there is a chance that the House could try to amend it.
- B. **Window dresser** – Mr. Chaffee explained what window dressing is. Window Dressers is a nonprofit company in Maine that has developed a standardized window insert to fit on or slide tightly into the inside of windows. It's made basically of strapping, measured precisely and the fitted with heat shrink plastic on two sides. It is a dead space insulator and it has foam around the edges which seal it to the windows.

More broadly is that communities take on voluntary programs to measure windows for people who sign up to buy these window inserts. They are subsidized for people who cannot afford them. It is a 6 month commitment of time, so Mr. Chaffee suggested they *try to locate volunteers* to help with these assemblies. Chair Bromberg said that Linda Gray of Norwich contacted him, and they would welcome working with Lebanon.

Ms. Boschert suggested that Lebanon post information about this initiative and about Norwich's involvement on List Serve and see if that generates any volunteers.

- C. **Sustainable Home Show – History? Begin again?**  
This would be a huge undertaking (previously done by the Chamber of Commerce and would take a year planning to organize). They think there would be a big turnout. It was held at the Thompson Arena and is like a trade show for Upper Valley businesses where they promote their products and services. Homeowners/consumers can meet face to face with potential vendors, It ran Friday thru Sunday and also had food vendors. They think it stopped around the time of COVID.

## 6. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC None

## 7. UPCOMING EVENTS

- A. March 12, 2026- 6:30PM – 8:30PM-NH Saves Button-up Workshop
- B. Earth Day, Saturday, April 25, 2026/Earth Week Open House April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>

## 8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Chaffee said that Chapter 13 will be on the Agenda for the Planning meeting being held Monday, March 23, 2026 at 6:30PM and is also available on Microsoft Teams. Ms. Kathryn Hembree has offered

to shepherd it for LEAC. Some LEAC members will attend either in person or remotely and can weigh in at that time.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

*Mr. Bill Stearns MOVED for adjournment.*

*Seconded by Mr. Jonathan Chaffee*

*\*The MOTION was approved (6-0)*

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:49 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Cinda Mersel

Recording Secretary