

FINAL

LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LEAC)
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Remote Via Microsoft Teams
LebanonNH.gov/Live
April 23, 2026
3:30 PM

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

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 3:39 PM

Chair Bromberg said that Mr. Doug Kogan, Clean Energy New Hampshire, is attendance today and attending remotely is Mr. Jeffrey Hamilton, Franklin Energy.

2. PREAMBLE – Read by Mr. Chris Kilmer

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. March 19, 2026

*Ms. Bill Stearns MOVED to approve the March 19, 2026, minutes as amended.
Seconded by Mr. Jonathan Chaffee*

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

Amendments:

Pg. 1, Line 8, change Ms. To Mr.

3. OLD BUSINESS

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

Mr. Below providing an update of CPCNH. On the legislative side, they saw several key bills progress, but others did not do so well. Enabling battery storage in conjunction with net metering is moving ahead but still in the works. The change in RPS which will enable Lebanon landfill to qualify also moved through the Senate.

The biggest one for CPCNH was the bill that clarified that the utility default service costs under collections need to be recovered within those rates, the utility default service rates. It went a step further

and called for not procuring utility default service in the spot market, except when for instance there was a failed solicitation for fixed price requirements. When it got to the Senate, the sponsors of the bill along with the chairman of that committee had gotten it out of the committee unanimously and across on the consent calendar in the House and said that after being approached by the PUC commissioners, as well as the representative from the Department of Energy, who came and testified and changed from neutral to recommending that the bill be retained.

CPCNH has set their rates at a level that has covered their costs, whereas Liberty has set their rates at too low of a rate, and this has put them in a position that causes it to appear that Liberty's rates are lower. If Liberty had collected the appropriate rates, then CPCNH would not only be more competitive but possibly have a lower rate than Liberty.

Last June, the Commission told Liberty don't assume that Salem is leaving (which is what Liberty was doing), and they also said to take half of the 8.1 million and put it in a deferral account, to collect at some point in the future. They wanted time to investigate these under collections, errors by Eversource and Liberty. Liberty had proposed that they raise their large customer rates by 4/10 of 1 cents, and 2/10 of 1 cent for residential; Liberty assumed they could come back and collect under collections as some point in the future and therefore has continued underpricing their service for the past 1 ½ years. At a recent meeting Liberty just focused on getting this balance agreed to which DOE did.

Both Liberty and CPCNH have been exposed to the spot market. Liberty cannot do retroactive rates. Expanding the base is not viable either because Liberty looks like they are less expensive, but will not be once they charge accurately, Mr. Below suggested they raise their rate, even if it is only now \$600,000. Mr. Below has no updates as of this evening. DOE would rather let the balance build up and address it in June.

Next Thursday there will be a Board election in Concord, 1/3 of the Board and the election of new officers. Mr. Below is up for reelection for his second 3-year term. He invited all LEAC members.

B. Landfill Gas to Energy Project

Mr. Kilmer said that they are back online and the plant is running with 3 microturbines, which is the norm.

C. EV Subcommittee Report

Ms. Boschert said that they sent out 2 newsletter items in the last 2 weeks, one about Mascoma Bank donating \$2,250 to the e-Bike project, which will cover about half of the remaining expenses for this.

Also, the Earth Week Open House is going very well. It is anticipated that this event could raise another \$1,000 towards the e-Bike project.

Mr. Stearns recently met at the new Fire Department and discussed the design with them. They, along with Leigh Hayes, Inspector, Building Department, had suggestions. He has also met with other interested parties including the electrician, Fire Prevention, Planning Department, the City Manager's office, the City Council, and the Ledyard School. They want to get all of this input mapped out so that then can then put in an application for a permit, etc. This project has a lot of moving parts, but it is nevertheless moving ahead.

Ms. Boschert attended the Fire Department opening and was surprised that there were no EV chargers, though these had been approved some time ago. Ms. Boschert will work with the City Planning Department to see when exactly these plans were approved. They will be for employees and now only need to be low power level 2, which is a big cost saving.

Ms. Boschert also suggested that it would be informative for LEAC to get an energy tour of the new Fire Department and also said that there is a large power station behind the FD, which could be interesting to learn more about. Mr. Below will work on getting them a tour.

Ms. Boschert, along with Ms. Rebecca Owens submitted another T-Mobile application for a hometown grant, to help cover the cost to install two EV charging stations, one in the Mascoma parking lot and one pole mounted charger outside of the AVA Art Gallery. Mascoma Bank has agreed that if they get this grant, Mascoma will contribute another \$1,198 grant, to complete covering the remaining costs.

D. Lebanon Energy Savings Program

Mr. Chaffee said that there are two positive developments.

The Department of Energy is looking for a contractor to administer the HEAR program, Home Electric Appliance Rebate Program, which would offer up to \$8,000 in rebates for heat pumps. If this comes to fruition, this could encourage the adoption of heat pumps here in Lebanon. The 2nd positive development is the New England Heat Pump Accelerator Program which is moving forward. It is a 5 state program by the NHDES, with about \$400 million available for conversion to heat pumps. One part of this program is for small community grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$400,000 and the potential to offer heat pump rebates to landlords. They will be following both opportunities closely.

Mr. Rothe shared information about Fire Station #3 which is a two-car garage, it uses 1,700 propane annually and \$900 electricity. Franklin Energy went to look at it and will follow up with an assessment to Mr. David Brooks, Deputy City Manager. Mr. Jeff Hamilton with Franklin Energy also offered to look at Fire Station #2, based on a suggestion from Mr. Below. There appear to be energy savings opportunities there.

E. UV's 'Energy Committees' Meeting

Mr. Bromberg said that there will be a follow up meeting to their January 2026 meeting, for the Upper Valley Committee members on June 4, 2026. He recently sent out an informative email on this topic, asking for their comments and priorities. Both Mr. Kogan and Mr. Hamilton will be invited to participate in this meeting.

F. LEAC Priorities for 2026

a. New subcommittee: Energy efficiency in City Building

Mr. Kilmer has been working with Jeff from Frankling Energy for the landfill, and options to upgrade various aspects of it. He'll also coordinate with Finance. He's also working with Jeff for the LED conversion lighting projects. Also, Mr. Sean Fleming (with the Libraries) has been working with Mr. Hamilton for the heating, and he is also working with Rich Adams for other facilities. He is supporting

several City initiatives. Mr. Hamilton said it is exciting to see the City realize substantial energy savings. He added that he's also working with City Hall on (Building Management Systems) upgrades as well as the water heater there.

- b. EV Subcommittee: pursue EV charger funding – see above – Ms. Boschert updated
- c. Lebanon Energy Savings Subcommittee: publicize resources for energy savings and fossil fuel reduction in the residential heating sector – see above
- d. C-PACER: Support City adoption: organize a conference to highlight C-PACER programs

Mr. Kogan, Clean Energy New Hampshire spoke about a webinar meeting about C-Pacer, that took place today with more than 50 attendees. He thinks this could get things in motion for towns to adopt the C-PACER program. Ms. Boschert thinks these are both important programs to get the word out to commercial property owners. She offered to contact the Business Alliance to get an article in their paper, also perhaps hold a webinar, etc. Mr. Bromberg said that Hanover is meeting with their biggest energy users to help get the program in front of them.

Mr. Chaffee said that he and Mr. Rothe had the opportunity recently to ask lots of questions of Michelle Harrison with Franklin Energy about how they've marketed these programs. She shared that they sent out very large mailings and also made follow-up phone calls to a large number of businesses, extensive marketing, and they also worked with the Chamber of Commerce. They saw about a 1% return; 1%-2% is the norm for this type of marketing.

Ms. Boschert suggested they do some publicity around C-PACER and Franklin Energy. Mr. Hamilton said that on the project Ms. Harrison discussed, they reached out to every commercial customer in the area, with 3 touches per customer. She also posed identifying Lebanon's largest energy users so that they can meet with them. Mr. Hamilton can provide that information to Ms. Boschert, along with the companies in Lebanon who have received the largest rebates, another way to share success stories.

Mr. Rothe would like to combine their project (residential) in with this initiative and share success stories which tend to be very effective.

- e. Reduce streetlight levels – see above
- f. Consider a local adder on the Lebanon Community Power bases rate – to be discussed again at a future meeting

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Franklin Energy – see above

Mr. Hamilton said the money comes from the systems benefits charge on the Liberty Electric bills. They use this pot of money to incentivize projects by measuring the incentive based on the calculated energy savings of moving from the existing equipment to the newer more efficient equipment. They use the lifetime of that equipment and multiply it out by the average kilowatt hours saved. They use a formula, approximately \$12 per Megawatt hour, that they provide as an incentive. Liberty has shown flexibility to incentivize larger projects.

Mr. Hamilton said it is never too early to start work on these. They can help not only municipalities but small and large businesses as well.

B. Amending Site Plan Review Regulations

Ms. Boschert said low power level 2 was approved back in January (by Zoning). Subsequently, Mr. Below drafted amendments to the site plan review regulations. But from what she knows, as of today, there has been no movement on actually amending those regulations. She contacted Mr. Andrew Faunce (he had been the Chair on the Planning Board), and Mr. Faunce suggested she get this on the City Council agenda.

She will reach out to the planning staff, including Nate Reichert or Catheryn Hembree, or others if needed, to get their input and help.

C. CIP Projects -it was decided this is not relevant to LEAC – this will be removed from future agendas.

6. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

7. UPCOMING EVENTS

A. Earth Week Open House April 25th & 26th

This event is happening this weekend.

B. Mr. Doug Kogan said that there will be an event on Thursday, May 7, 2026, from 6-7:30PM at the Meridan Library. A professor from University of New Hampshire will be speaking about climate change and trends happening here in New Hampshire such as weather, heating and cooling trends, etc., all having an impact on energy.

C. Mr. Below said that during New Hampshire Energy Week, there will be events around the state. He cited one to be held on Monday, May 4, 2026 from 10:00 -12 noon, an Open House at the Poverty Plains Solar Project in Warner, NH, the one that you can see from I-89 northbound. It is just before the Warner exits and is a 4.99 MW solar field that the Community Power Coalition is buying all the renewable energy credits from.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

9. ADJOURNMENT

*Mr. Clifton Below MOVED for adjournment.
Seconded by Mr. Woody Rothe*

**The MOTION was approved (6-0)
The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 PM*

Respectfully submitted,
Cinda Mersel
Recording Secretary