

FINAL

LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LEAC)
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Remote Via Microsoft Teams
LebanonNH.gov/Live
May 21, 2026
3:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Henry Bromberg (Chair), Clifton Below,
Sherry Boschert (remote), Jonathan Chaffee,
Patrick Kenelly (arrived at approximately 3:55PM), Woody Rothe, Bill
Stearns

MEMBERS ABSENT: 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 in attendance.

2. PREAMBLE – Read by Mr. Chris Kilmer

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. April 23, 2026

*Mr. Clifton Below MOVED to approve the April 23, 2026, minutes as amended.
Seconded by Mr. Woody Rothe*

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

Amendments:

Pg. 3, Line 19, change organization spelling from HERE to **HEAR**

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. Legislation 1 PUC Regulations, 1 CPCNH / LCP updates: CPCNH Publicity Campaign
Mr. Below shared the CPCNH Annual report with committee members, which was utilized during their recent annual meeting in Concord.

The legislative session wrapped up with some victories. The battery enabling bill is on its way to the Governor for approval. DOE ultimately got behind this bill as well, so he thinks it will be signed.

This bill allows one to have battery storage in conjunction with net metering. The commission can address this in the future.

Another bill ready to be signed will allow towns to take funds through a specific type of trust account so that the town does not have to go back every year to get funds appropriated because of not using all prior appropriated funds.

A big bill which he has spoke about before would limit the ability of the commission to shift costs away from default service and on to their cost recovery charge, like Eversource proposed a couple of years ago before CPCNH helped to reveal the fact that under collections were not due to customer migration, but rather due to internal errors by the company.

This ended up getting passed in the directionally correct way that says that the utility default service costs should not be recovered, except from default service customers, except perhaps in extraordinary circumstances, if the commission determines that in an adjudicated proceeding.

Liberty never proposed anything but to recover for default services closest to having perhaps an extraordinary circumstance so they have asked to convene a meeting with the parties to their default service case next Friday; Mr. Below will be attending this meeting.

Liberty's under recoveries are so large that they will be unresistant to try to recover them over the 12-month period. They will be talking with other parties in the docket before they make a specific proposal. Liberty continues to have under collections.

They got a data response from Eversource that indicates they lost over the course of December, January, and February, under collections of approximately \$46 million. Some over-collections have helped offset this amount down to a net under collections of more than \$26 million for this rate period. They are forecasting over collections this month and the next two months, which may or may not be the case.

The commission's approach ** has disrupted the competitive markets, resulting in the perception that CPCNH's rates are higher than utilities. He thinks that CPCNH will probably beat Liberty's rates , and maybe for several years into the future. He anticipates that Eversource will appear to be less expensive too, if they continue to underestimate their costs.

**The former Chair came up with a formula called the "proxy price formula", feeling like perhaps he could outsmart a competitive market, even though there wasn't real evidence to substantiate the formula.

Mr. Below said they will be making efforts to educate the public by engaging their members to get the messaging out, along with radio programs and other means.

B. Landfill Gas to Energy Project

Mr. Kilmer shared that the gas plant is currently running 3 micro turbines steadily. They just got their gas report back and they are looking to change out the siloxane media again like the one they did in February. The H2S media still seems to be working well, which could result in some cost savings since they have gone from an estimated 5 weeks to three months between media changes. This is decreasing operational cost considerably, given each media changes cost around \$60,000. They had projected nine media changes per year, but this might well be reduced to only four . They will know more once they have a full year of operation.

The chiller is problematic again so they are looking into some options. Currently it is stable and running and generating power for the time being. Lastly, they are anticipating increased Liberty rates for at least the next 1-2 years.

C. EV Subcommittee Report

a. Amending Site Plan Review Regulations

Several months ago, the City Council approved the zoning and instructed the Planning staff to pursue the site plan review proposal for amendments. To date this has not happened.

Ms. Boschert heard from Mr. Nate Reichert, Director, Planning & Development, and suggested that they get on the Planning Board's agenda with the goal to get this back on track. They should have a good idea the beginning of June when they can get on the agenda, possibly as late as August due to their very heavy schedule.

This will be LEAC's opportunity to raise this topic again with the Planning Board and inform them and all their new members of the history of this and hopefully get them to consider and approve the amendments that are needed for the site plan review process.

It was agreed that working with Planning staff should help them as they prepare for this meeting.

This impacts land developer John Levitus and Ms. Boschert will check in with him on this so that they can communicate any updates.

Ms. Boschert has condensed the electric vehicle sections of the zoning ordinance and offered to share this with LEAC members and in turn she asked for their input. Also, with Mr. Kogan's help, she updated the white paper she had previously written and corrected some mathematical errors.

b. Recap of Earth Week

Ms. Boschert said the e-bike initiative is moving along. Mr. Stearns is continuing to talk to the City building officials to ensure that they have all approvals and permits needed for this project.

She anticipates they will hear later this month about whether or not they got the T-Mobile Hometown Grant to fund putting in two level 2 chargers in downtown Lebanon.

The Upper Valley Earth Week Open House has done their final report and this was another successful event this year. They had a record number of sponsoring organizations, more people registered, more attendees and also more advertising in the guide; consequently they were able to raise more money for the e-bike project. Also, other communities joined in; for example Woodstock participated and had a big turnout.

Ms. Boschert will be communicating with the organizers again soon, and they will decide if they will hold this event annually or biennially. She is leaning towards biennially, because they also have the EV Expo currently biennially, so alternating years on both of these could make sense.

D. Lebanon Energy Savings Program

Mr. Chaffee recently attended a webinar on the Heat Pump Accelerator Program and found it informative. He was hoping that they could apply for a community level grant of \$100,000, but because of New

Hampshire's small population, there can only be one of these grants in NH, which makes it highly competitive.

His goal is to get more rebate monies to help make heat pumps more affordable for landlords, but he's also learned that rebates cannot be stacked with community grants. So he will continue to find out more about their various options and he added that the criteria for these grants will be released sometime this summer.

Ms. Boschert shared some information about the HEAR program, which Mr. Chaffee had discussed during last month's meeting. Mr. Chaffee added that it is not yet clear when these rebates will become available and reiterated that rebates cannot be stacked.

Mr. Rothe said that Mr. Chaffee has put together a half page handout, with the City seal, that he and Mr. Chafee have been distributing and encouraging multi-family and single-family property owners to apply for free energy audits.

Additionally, they will be attending the Farmer's Markets this year, talking with people and distributing these ideally to multi-family property owners.

E. LEAC Priorities for 2026

a. New subcommittee: Energy efficiency in City Building

Chair Bromberg shared that he went on a tour of Lebanon Fire House #2 with Fire Chief Wheatley and Mr. Jeff Hamilton, representative with Franklin Energy Management Consultants. He is checking to see if they have any report he can view, to see what opportunities there might be.

Mr. Below spoke with Fire Chief Wheatley recently, and he is willing to give LEAC members a tour of the new Lebanon Fire Station, which might take place as early as July or August, ideally in conjunction with a LEAC meeting (ideal but not likely).

- 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 - Mr. Chaffe & Mr. Rothe updated
- d. C-PACER: Support City adoption: organize a conference to highlight C-PACER programs with the area's largest commercial/industrial customers

Mr. Kogan said that the C-PACER program has amended their process so that towns can now also use their Select Boards to adopt a picture district now, rather than having to wait for an annual meeting. He said that lots of other companies will be joining Lebanon in the ranks of C-based districts. He added that the City of Lebanon has done their work and now it is up to developers to step up and apply for this program.

Ms. Boschert added that this is another topic she will speak with John Levitus about as he was very interested in utilizing this C-Pacer program.

Chair Bromberg wants to be sure they let developers know about this program. He asked if Hanover has adopted this program. They had in the past but the necessary infrastructure was not in place at the time.

- e. Reduce streetlight levels – The City has access to the software and can adjust the lighting level. Mr. Below and Mr. Kilmer will work on this and possibly also reach out to Mr. Paul Coats with the City. Mr. Below said they will need to put this before the City Council and that their new energy rates should be set in June, so sometime after that could be ideal.
- f. Consider a local adder on the Lebanon Community Power bases rate – to be discussed again at a future meeting

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Brainstorm re: UV's largest commercial/industrial energy users

Mr. Hamilton with Franklin Energy has said in last month's meeting that he could get LEAC a list of the biggest energy users in Lebanon, but Ms. Boschert subsequently learned from him that he cannot legally share that database. So she then called Hanover and asked them how they got this information; they had the same issue. Hanover simply took their best guess and then called the various energy users.

To this end, Ms. Boschert prepared a list that she shared on the screen, composed of large companies in Lebanon and West Lebanon. LEAC members went through this list in addition to providing additional names of companies to contact.

6. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - None

7. UPCOMING EVENTS

- A. Vital Communities, June 4, 2026, 5-8 PM at Fireside Inn – discussion about Balcony Solar, also known as plug-in-photovoltaic; all LEAC members are invited and encouraged to attend.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS None

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

**The MOTION was approved (7-0)
The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM*

Respectfully submitted,
Cinda Mersel
Recording Secretary