FINAL

LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LEAC)
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Remote Via Microsoft Teams
LebanonNH.gov/Live
June 18, 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**
MEMBERS ABSENT:	**Bill Stearns, 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 3:39 PM**

Chair Bromberg announced that Mr. Doug Kogan, Clean Energy New Hampshire, is in attendance.

2. PREAMBLE – Read by Mr. Chris Kilmer

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. May 21, 2026

Mr. Jonathan Chaffee MOVED to approve the April 23, 2026, minutes as written.
Seconded by Mr. Woody Rothe

Roll Call Vote:

Voting Yea: Chair Bromberg, Mr. Below, Ms. Boschert, Mr. Chaffee, Mr. Rothe
Voting Nea: None

**** The vote on the MOTION was approved (5-0)***

3. **OLD BUSINESS**

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

Mr. Below provided a dynamic update today on CPCNH. The Commission has been provided with ample information about the rate deferrals/practice by Liberty that are currently in excess of $8M, which continue to result in them offering lower rates than actual costs. They will need to start collecting these deferrals at some point but to date have not. CPCNH provided testimony and contends that Liberty rates are not just nor reasonable and any determination should in fact consider things that are expressly stated in statute, like avoiding creating new deferred costs and to consider the effect on the competitive market or any harm that might come to the competitive market. This same narrative was presented to the commission well over 15 months ago under filed testimony.

The commission finally issued an order on the last docket and said that they are not deciding anything, rather they are kicking the can down the road. They had previously decided to direct Liberty to continue to defer half of their under collection balance to continue to charge no interest or carrying costs on the working capital of between $8M -$9M, and to in essence allow them to continue with the proxy price methodology and 12 month amortization of the under collection balance. Liberty followed the commission's directive and came of with a rate of approximately 21 cents for the small customer group, residential and small business; the current rate is around 13-14 cents.

When CPCNH arrived at the hearing, the Commission announced that they would not hear the testimony by CPCNH, which is problematic since there is a statute that states that once you are a party to a proceeding, you have the right to provide evidence at the hearing on the issues noticed. CPCNH's testimony was on the question of whether the proposed rates are just and reasonable, which is the noticed issued.

After some deliberation, they decided to allow CPCNH to testify, but during their line of questioning it appeared they were trying to make a case. Then DOE spoke and said that they had just called the Governor's office and just this morning the Governor had signed into law this new bill that says in extraordinary circumstances, you can consider putting this in a stranded cost charge so that everyone pays which would mean that CPCNH and other non-utility customers would be subsidizing the default service customers because of Liberty's proxy rates, in this case having artificially setting rates below the cost of service.

Mr. Below offered them an out which he explained would help Liberty to start getting back some of their under collection from Liberty customers. In the meantime though, about 10 days prior to this meeting, Liberty filed a petition to allow them going forward to take the net metering costs and put them in some kind of a charge that everyone pays for, not just their default service customers.

Today the commission issued an order and said on a provisional basis for Liberty to just continue with their ESAF, Energy Service Adjustment Factor, like they did last year, and is only around a penny, which collects only 8 or 9% of the outstanding reconciliation, assuming they actually cover their costs with the rest of the rate, which appears to be unlikely. The same thing for Eversource who has run up approximately a
+ $30M shortfall, that has gotten worse from period to period, but they keep saying they will recover it, as the amount grows. Today they decided they will just stick with the old ESAF rates and continue to defer everything else to further consideration. The effect of this looks like CPCNH will have a bit lower rate for the small customer group. This order was just issued about an hour or two earlier today, so Mr. Below will continue to process this as he gets more information.

Some good news is that financially, CPCNH is on track to be out of deficit either this month or next month; when they close the books the balance sheet will show net positive assets. All along though, if Liberty had set their rates at the cost to serve, CPCNH would not have been higher for at least one of the prior six month periods.

Mr. Below said it became clear from the Commissioner's questions, they want the default service rate as low as possible so that they are not paying money out to net metered customers at the default service rate like the City of Lebanon.

The actions today are a way to keep from having rate increases before the November election which he believes aligns with the Governor.

Representative Tom Corman and Representative Kat McGee are hopefully going to be the new chair and vice chair of ST&E. They are both concerned about all this and so Representative Corman wrote an excellent column that is in today's Valley News, which summarizes all the issues very clearly.

B. Landfill Gas to Energy Project

Mr. Chris Kilmer said that the gas energy plant has been running fairly stable and that they have been running 3 micro turbines consistently. The chiller was replaced and was under warranty. They are working on two operational tweaks one being to protect one of the control panels, to make the weatherized box that it is in actually weatherized, which it was not. They are putting a structure over it to keep any water out, since this is high voltage. Also they are readying to do the second media change. As he had shared in a previous update, they are having to do these media changes less frequently than had been budgeted, which will result in substantial cost savings, possibly as much as $60,000.

He also believes that they will get the anticipated letter from Liberty in July, along with a reimbursement of approximately $272,000 or more, to be paid in August, which will be a good offset in revenue for the plant for the year.

C. EV Subcommittee Report

Mr. Boschert said that the ebike project is moving ahead. They have continued to tweak the design to preserve costs and improve the simplicity and get this up and running. Currently they are also considering letting go of the idea of it being a three-season solar charging station. They think they can possibly tap into a streetlight near the cement pad outside the eastern end of the tunnel. Mr. Below and Mr. Rick Brown thought there should be enough capacity in that streetlight, especially given the City put in LED bulbs there. She is in communication with the City's electrician to confirm this. She is also working with a very knowledgeable local man, Carl, aka "Mr. ebike of the Upper Valley" and he thinks their ideas are great and that they will work. He also contributed some other comments/suggestions on their designs such as that it is better to use hard wired outlets rather than extension cords for the ebikes. As soon as they confirm their plans with the electrician, they can move forward as they have enough funds for this specific project.

Regarding grant applications, they have not heard from T-Mobile who were supposed to announce the winners in May. Given the late date, she is not optimistic.

The State Department of Environmental Services is expected to release their call for applications for approximately $3M left over from the VWM settlement money for communities to put in level 2 chargers, and she and the EV team will be applying for funding.

She, along with Mr. Below, will be meeting in front of the Planning Board next Monday June 22nd, at 6:30PM, to resurrect the proposed amendment to the site plan review regulations. These had been approved previously (January 2026) but to date, nothing has happened. She invited all LEAC members to either attend in person or virtually.

Ms. Boschert has reached out to local developer John Levatis to get an update from him on EV chargers activity. Also, she would like to get a report showing how many plug in vehicles there are in New Hampshire and to this end will be contacting George Sykes and possibly Tom Corman to see if they can assist. She noted that Vermont recently came out with this type of report showing how many EVs they have in every community, so she knows that information is available. That knowledge can help inform EV charging initiatives in New Hampshire.

She also shared information about a recent UC Davis study showing that nationally, EV sales fell after the federal tax credits for EV purchases was stopped in September 2025. From the period of 1Q 2025 to 1Q 2026 EV sales fell by 27% but not because there was a drop in demand but rather because there was more of a limited supply. While the demand is still there, car companies have backed off and even cancelled some EV programs while limiting others and simultaneously experiencing tariff pressures. Consumer demand is still there. She said, "it's the industry that's frustrating the desires of the consumers".

Lastly, she added that Mr. Bill Stearns has been communicating with the energy committee and others in Enfield and was recently talking with a lady who owns a building in the downtown area there. She is going to take his design and put an EV charger in at her building for people to use. It won't be solar powered though because her building is too shaded. Ms. Boschert hopes LEAC can collaborate and publicize this, possibly with a fun event.

D. Lebanon Energy Savings Program

Mr. Jonathan Chaffee has shared with LEAC in the last two meetings of his and Mr. Rothe's intent to apply for a community level grant through the Heat Pump Accelerator Program and has been in communications with others who are knowledgeable about this. He's learned that people don't typically want to switch to heat pumps until their heating systems fail. But then typically that is a crisis period making it hard to transition to solar in a short period of time. So many go the easier route by simply installing another fossil fuel furnace. So they had the idea that if they could help people to plan in advance of actually needing a heat pump, this would result in more people being able to actually move to heat pumps when their fossil fuel heating needs to be replaced.

The natural progression was the idea to organize a seminal conference where heat pump contractors would agree to complete household assessments, addressing the readiness, the adequacy of the electrical system, the weatherization, the location for the heat pump, the size, etc. He envisions having it at the Fireside Inn, several contractors and perhaps 200 people there. They would offer door prizes and food, and attendees can sign up for heat pump assessments. They could also have a demonstration of an operating heat pump. Contractors would conduct follow up with interested attendees. He is putting his

pen to paper to come up with a cost estimate for this event, and that would be the grant amount applied for.
LEAC members agreed that this is a great idea. Marketing this event will be key to driving attendance. Mr. Chaffee envisions that this event could emulate the Home Shows that used to be here, one that everyone would look forward to.

It was suggested that they consider the impact beyond a single event conference, because some people might be interested but not be able to attend on one specific date. Ms. Boschert suggested that this event could also be live steamed or recorded and then give access to whoever registers for heat pumps assessments/products.

They could also invite the Department of Energy to talk about their rebate program.

Also he recently attended an Energy Committee presentation about cold climate heat pumps, which validated that they really could replace one's entire heating system. Mr. Chaffee and Mr. Rothe will continue their work on this energy event concept.

E. LEAC Priorities for 2026

a. New subcommittee: Energy efficiency in City Building

Fire Chief Wheatley has offered for LEAC to tour the new fire station #1, prior to their meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2026. He said they can start the tour at 1:00 PM and that LEAC can then hold their meeting at the station, in one of their meeting rooms.

Mr. Kilmer will handle the logistics and look into the video and audio capabilities there and also check to see if Zoom and or Teams is accessible there.

Mr. Below will confirm with Fire Chief Wheatley.

b. EV Subcommittee: pursue EV charger funding – see above

c. Lebanon Energy Savings Subcommittee: publicize resources for energy savings and fossil fuel reduction in the residential heating sector - see abive

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

e. Reduce streetlight levels

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

5. NEW BUSINESS

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

Ms. Boschert posed the idea of including the above topic under C-PACER which they agreed to do going forward. She committed to prepare a large commercial energy users spreadsheet for the July LEAC meeting.

She and Chair Bromberg have talked with Yolanda Baumgardner with the City of Hanover about how they worked with their large energy users and how they kicked off their program. They will revisit engaging DHMC, though in the past Dartmouth had wanted to be an offtaker which was not available at that time.

Mr. Chaffee asked how soon Community Power will be ready to offer longer term fixed rates to large consumers, and Mr. Below said that it could perhaps happen as early as Spring 2027, once they have a longer term commitment and ability to enter into different hedge options for more than six months at a time. Mr. Chaffee likes this concept because it will benefit the users while building up City reserves.

B. Report on the June 4th Upper Valley Energy Committee Roundtable meeting

Mr. Bromberg thought this was an excellent event with about 77 people attending from Upper Valley Energy Committees.

Mr. Bill Stearns represented LEAC and had a table set up showcasing balcony solar; people congregated around his table.

Mr. Chaffee said that another topic that generated a lot of excitement was the Energy Navigators Program, which is a national program administered locally, that supports residents and businesses reduce their energy bills, thereby increasing the efficiency of their properties, helping to make this more comfortable and sustainable. As one reference, New Hampshire residents can go to the site NHSAVES.

Mr. Doug Kogan thanked LEAC members (Chair Bromberg, Mr. Chaffee, Mr. Rothe, and Mr. Stearns) who attended this roundtable meeting put on by Clean Energy New Hampshire, whom he represents. He also said that Clean Energy NH is working on a primer to help with the $3M VWM mitigation trust funds level 2 charging and that process. He would like to showcase and illustrate what the City of Lebanon has done/plans to do with installing chargers and low power versions versus level 2 charging, and the savings that can result. Mr. Below has been involved and has already prepared a draft of that paper which Mr. Kogan will utilize. Mr. Kogan is hopeful that the NHDES will provide some funding support.

Lastly, Mr. Kogan was in attendance at this meeting and wanted to make LEAC aware of a fast charging program (NEVI) along highway corridors. $17M funding has been awarded to the State of New Hampshire to build out fast chargers in designated corridors throughout the state. He is not sure of the exact corridor et, but since there are two major highways in NH, he thinks Lebanon will be ground zero for some of this project. He believes there is an RFP with only a month to reply. He also thinks it is directed towards contractors, however it does leave open the possibility for municipalities that own property, that they could also file as an applicant. Mr. Kilmer said that there would in all likelihood be a price tag associated with this, and if this is the case, given the current budget, this would not be feasible. Mr. Kilmer asked Mr. Kogan to send him any information he has on this so that he can get it in front of the City's grant writer.

Ms. Boschert said that they had already checked into this with NEVI phase one, and the City of Lebanon did not qualify because they already had fast chargers here that were considered to be in too close proximity to other chargers. Mr. Kogan does not know what the current requirements are but committed to look into this and get back with LEAC. In the meantime, he asked members to look at the RFP.

At the end of the today's meeting, Mr. Below announced an update that just occurred in the last hour, that the State Commission just issued a ruling that it is going to accept CPCNH's testimony in the Eversource case.

6. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – Mr. Doug Kogan attended – see above

7. UPCOMING EVENTS None

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS None

9. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Clifton Below MOVED for adjournment.
Seconded by Mr. Jonathan Chaffee

Roll Call Vote:

Voting Yea: Chair Bromberg, Mr. Below, Ms. Boschert, Mr. Chaffee, Mr. Kenelly, Mr. Rothe
Voting Nea: None

****The MOTION was approved (6-0)***
The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Cinda Mersel
Recording Secretary