

LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, the meeting was held virtually via MS Teams

February 18, 2021

4:00 PM

FINAL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Clifton Below (Chair, Council Representative), Greg Ames (Vice-Chair), Jon Chaffee, Woody Rothe, Joan Monroe (Planning Board Representative), Meghan Butts

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gene Homicki (alternate)

STAFF PRESENT: Everett Hammond

GUESTS PRESENT: Sandy Gmur (Vital Communities), Evan Oxenham

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Clifton Below at 4:05 PM.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: Woody moved to accept the 1/21/2021 minutes with two corrections (add Meghan to Members Present, change Greg's nomination to Vice-Chair, not Chair); Jon seconded. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Update on Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH) and Lebanon Community Power (LCP) planning: The City Council unanimously approved the City Manager entering into the CPCNH Joint Powers agreement (Hanover has approved it as well). The City Manager has signed the contract with Samuel Golding as a CPCNH consultant (funded by via the CDFA grant). Henry Herndon's contract as a CPCNH consultant is close to completion (also funded by via the CDFA grant). Clifton shared Samuel and Henry's scope of work documents, detailing what they are doing under their contracts.

Legislative Update: HB 315 City Testimony and Attachments, HB 407, and SB 91: Clifton gave an update on the progress of HB315. Several people who had signed up to testify at the hearing did not get a chance to speak; the hearing has been continued until Monday 2/22 at 1pm. Clifton has had conversations with the bill's main sponsor about possible amendments. Clifton suggested that Committee members consider going to the House site and register their opposition to HB 315. HB 407 has a hearing tomorrow. It creates a market-based alternative to net metering, allowing distributed generation "limited producers" under 5MW to serve as a load reducer, improving economics of distributed generation. Clifton suggested that

Committee members consider going to the House site and register their support of HB 407. SB91 incorporates HB 407 and some of the positive aspects of HB 315

NSF Smart & Connected Communities Grant Proposal for Lebanon Transactive Energy Community (LEBTEC) with Dartmouth, UNH & MIT: Greg gave an update. Amro Farid is applying for a National Science Foundation Smart and Connected Communities Grant for a joint project between Dartmouth and Lebanon, UNH, and MIT as sub-awardees. LEBTEC will serve as a data-gathering pilot to analyze electricity use and learn how to use AI control of demand response without impacting customers use of appliances, water heating, HVAC, building automation, etc. Some of the information learned will likely help with the development of Lebanon Community Power. If approved, the project will start late summer/early fall and run for four years.

Update on LED Street Light Conversion Project: The City Council supported the consensus of LEAC and DPW to convert the lights around Colburn Park and the Mall to 2700K or 3000K LED using the existing poles (with refurbishment of the poles). The new lights will be dark sky friendly. The main street light conversion project has been delayed due to weather, but conversion should begin Monday.

2021 Goals and Work Plan: Clifton shared the Planning Board section of the 2021 proposed budget. The Committee discussed the Planning Department's interest in encouraging more sustainable and energy efficient development within the City. Jon mentioned that he has invited the City Manager to attend LEAC's March meeting to get his feedback and plans on this topic. Joan discussed some of the proposed changes to site plan regulations, including outdoor lighting.

OTHER BUSINESS – Meghan discussed the Governor's new proposed Department of Energy that would impact OSI and recommend that LEAC monitor the situation.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – Sandy Gmur from Vital Communities discussed the Valley Quest and specifically Lebanon Energy Quest. This year's "Super Quest" is around climate, and she is interested in including some of Lebanon's energy updates in Super Quest. The Lebanon Energy Quest was last updated in 2012. Could include updates around LED's, Solar, etc. The Committee discussed some of the impacts of Hurricane Irene. Sandy will forward the Lebanon Energy Quest information to the Committee for review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Meghan gave a summary of last week's EV Subcommittee meeting – The Subcommittee discussed NH DES DERA grant funding for upgrading diesel vehicles – possible upgrades of school buses? Discussion of planning regulations around EV charging, possibility of EV police cars and patrol eBikes, and the expansion of CMAQ to possibly cover EV charging. Joan mentioned that the Planning Board regulations are being updated to include some discussion/requirement of EV charging.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Jon and Woody suggested that we invited the City Manager to the March meeting to discuss long-term planning. Possible updates on City solar, anerobic digester, and landfill gas-to-energy.

NEXT MEETING:

Scheduled for Thursday, March 18th at 4pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Greg to adjourn the meeting at 5:51 PM. The motion was seconded by Meghan. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Gregory Ames