

CITY OF CONCORD
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MAY 26, 2021

The Concord Energy and Environment Advisory Committee met at 7:00 p.m., on May 26, 2021, virtually.

Attendees: City Councilor Rob Werner, Carl Cooley, Jerry Eaton, Jessica Forrest, Henry Herndon (arrived 7:23), Jennifer Galbraith, Chuck Willing

Absent: Nick Babladelis, Dot Currier

Staff: Sam Durfee

Guest(s): None

I. Welcome and Introductions

7:03 pm – Rob calls meeting to order. Reads electronic meeting notice. Roll call for attendance.

7:06 pm - Motion to accept April 28, 2021 minutes. Unanimously approved by roll call.

II. Municipal Properties Update

- **Hall Street solar project**

Rob:

Not much change since last month. We are awaiting language change in the interconnection agreement that seems to be fairly straightforward. Contract is on Unitil's side and they want to get it done over next month. Ongoing conversations.

Time crunch to get anything in the ground this year if the negotiations keep getting delayed. Unitil interconnection agreement should go well on the city side.

I. Concord LED Streetlight Project

- **RFP Status**

Rob: Contractors have submitted their proposals and review is underway by city.

II. Weatherize Concord 2021

- **Program Update/news**

Jessica:

Due to the delay at the PUC in approving the Triennial Energy Efficiency Budget, Unitil has suspended new NH Saves Weatherization projects. They are conducting audits for new projects for the time being, but not approving work orders. As discussed last month, Liberty is not accepting new audit requests or work orders, but eligible applicants are placed on a waiting list. We have added a note to the Weatherize Concord website about the NH Saves delay. Low income projects are proceeding as normal. Keene and Hanover have submitted similar comment letters as ours to the PUC.

III. Other Business

- **City budget requests: ICLEI-USA and NRRA**

Rob:

ICLEI-USA budget is included in city budget. When the city budget is formally adopted, we can send \$600 fee to become a member. ClearPath Tool offered through membership allows us to do scenario planning. “By doing x, what is the GHG reduction effect?” Perhaps GHG intervention and emissions modeling could be a UNH sustainability fellowship project for 2022.

General services felt they have adequate knowledge without NRRA membership and felt they had capacity in-house. Given value proposition, they didn’t think it was worth it to join.

- **Race to Zero campaign update**

Rob:

Concord is joining the Race to Zero campaign in the leadup to the UNFCCC COP in Glasgow this year. Aim is to get to zero GHG emissions as fast as possible and by 2050 at latest.

Aspects of the pledge:

- We need to plan how to reach these targets within 12 months of joining.
- Proceed with action in 2021
- Publish – Our Race to Zero actions by 2022. Put data into database and be part of document that many people look at.
- We can get technical assistance from ICLEI for Race to Zero

V. New Hampshire Legislative Session

- **Legislative hearings/bill status**

Rob:

SB 109 –Net Metering for government(s) added to HB 315.

Passed in the Senate. Now it is between House and Senate. It is expected to pass and the governor to sign it. To be confirmed in June.

III. Community Power Coalition

- **Concord Invitation**

Henry Herndon –Community Power Coalition Coordinator/Energy Consultant/CEEAC Member

Background: The City of Concord has 100% renewable energy goal and strategic plan for achieving the goal. Municipal Aggregation/Community Power has been identified as a major strategy for achieving this by 2030.

History:

- Cities of Lebanon, Nashua, Keene and Cheshire County conducted a research process and determined that the community power model is the best for the state for scaling up renewable energy in a cost-effective manner.
- Group brought on expert legal counsel to design coalition with Joint Power Agreement (JPA) (2020)
- Formed the Community Power Coalition
- Currently onboarding new members, with a goal is 5-12 members by August. Concord has been invited to join.

What membership means:

- Phase I – No cost, no risk. Adopt Joint Power Agreement (JPA). Coalition will provide support towards Concord developing a community power/municipal aggregation agreement.
- Phase II – If Concord decides to adopt a community power plan – coalition will help to hire vendors in a financially transparent way
- In August, plan is to establish Board of Directors. City Council would be asked to appoint a liaison to the coalition.

Is the CEEAC interested in making this recommendation on joining to City Council?

Jerry: CEEAC needs to really understand documents and be able to answer questions from City Council

Henry: How to get there?

Jerry: Subcommittee to read and summarize for the rest of the group?

Jerry is willing to do it, take notes, list questions, etc.

Rob: Thinks it's a good idea to have a working group.

Calendar – too late for June City Council agenda but can notice a discussion for August 10 City Council meeting at the July meeting.

Chuck interested in joining working group also. Henry could help answer questions.

7:34 – Rob asks for motion for work group to review Joint Powers Agreement with the ultimate goal of making a recommendation to City Council. We would like to have the input of the working group for the June CEEAC meeting to have a notice on the July City Council agenda for discussion at the August 10 City Council meeting.

Work group will consist of Chuck, Jerry and perhaps Henry to prepare recommendation for June CEEAC meeting.

Carl makes motion, Jerry seconds. Roll call to vote. All except Henry voted in favor, Henry abstained. Approved 7:36.

VI. Other Business, cont'd

- **NH State Energy Plan**

Rob:

Public comment period on state energy plan extended to June 25th.

Next CEEAC meeting is June 23rd.

Are people interested in making comments?

Chuck: Interested in commenting. Would we do this as a committee or as individuals? Can the CEEAC speak for the city or do we need to avoid that given that we are an advisory committee.

Rob: Believes the letter from the city to the PUC established a precedent. Comments on the energy plan would be consistent with this precedent. Other city energy committees are also submitting comments.

Sam: Would like to do it, but believes that Rob should confirm with Tom Aspell. Rob could discuss both this and the Community Power Coalition concept with Tom. Tom would let us know if there is a concern.

For the comment letter, we should prepare a draft and share with city officials and perhaps others prior to approval and submission.

Timeline: If it is due to the state by June 25th, we will meet on June 23rd to review/approve a near final draft. It would be good to circulate a draft comment letter by mid-June.

Clean Energy NH already did a thorough job on comments so we could look at those.

State energy plan draft is available on OSI website

Rob to send around a link with Clean Energy NH comments.

Chuck offered to draft letter and invited all of us to submit our comments to him.

- **McAuliffe Shepard Discovery Center Citizen Science Project**

Rob:

McAuliffe- Shepard center reached out to request participation in their citizen science project about extreme heat. Collaboration with Boston Museum of Science and NOAA.

Citizens are asked to take measurements about how heat and weather affect daily activities, 2-3 times/week in June and July

Would we be interested in participating?

22 Science museums around country are collecting data.

Will send announcement around, please pass it forward and participate if you'd like.

Jessica to forward to Audubon.

IV. Adjournment

7:53 - Motion to adjourn. Unanimously approved.