

CITY OF CONCORD  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MARCH 24, 2021

The Concord Energy and Environment Advisory Committee met at 7:00 p.m., on March 24, 2021, virtually.

**Attendees:** City Councilor Rob Werner, Nick Babladelis, Carl Cooley, Dot Currier, Jerry Eaton, Jessica Forrest, Jennifer Galbraith, City Councilor Meredith Hatfield, Chuck Willing

**Absent:** Henry Herndon

**Staff:** Sam Durfee

**Guest(s):** Keri Brand (Asthma Control Program, DHHS Healthy Lives Division), Anne Karczmarczyk (interested citizen, former manager of Eversource Commercial Programs)

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

7:02 pm – Rob opens meeting. Reads electronic meeting notice

7:05 pm - *Carl makes motion to accept February 24, 2021 minutes. Jerry seconds. Unanimously approved by roll call.*

**II. Municipal Properties Update**

- **Hall Street solar project**

Rob: Revision Energy will own the solar array planned for the Hall Street Wastewater Treatment plant. Contract is being finalized and hopefully construction will begin in summer 2021

Chuck asked if permit needed by Revision if the project is on city property and will the project be subject to City regulations as it is a City project?

Sam: Yes, this will be a Major Site Plan application, Revision will be applicant on behalf of the city, and while the City is exempt from adhering to its own regulations under RSA 674:54, it is common practice for City projects to follow City regulations as much as possible.

Chuck: Will city charge taxes to Revision?

Rob: That is part of the discussion

Chuck: While time consuming, it is good to take the time to set the project up right, as precedent to future solar projects on city land.

### **III. Concord LED Streetlight Project**

- **RFP Status**

Rob: City Council approved the streetlight LED project last month. RFPs went out. A few companies responded but they didn't meet all the requirements, so the city needs to reissue the RFPs.

### **IV. Weatherize Concord 2021**

- **Kick-off (3/16/21)**
- **Program next steps**

*Jessica provided update, followed by group discussion:*

- Successful kick off occurred on March 16 – audio recording is on the Weatherize Concord website ([www.WeatherizeConcord.org](http://www.WeatherizeConcord.org)) . Covered by Concord Monitor and Concord TV. New News and Announcements section of website.
- The last Weatherize Subcommittee meeting was held on Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Main topics covered were the outreach strategy moving forward through 2021, and tracking Weatherize Concord projects.
- On outreach, next big push would be around Earth Day (April 22<sup>nd</sup>), and would be primarily “virtual” via traditional and electronic media. The exception is that we would like to develop hard copy handouts for distribution at various locations around town (without us there).
- We also want to plan a booth at Market Days (August 19-21) and need to figure out where we would like to be located and apply for that space. We will design a Weatherize poster for the space, to be used alongside our CEEAC banner from 2019.
- We have a preliminary marketing strategy written up. For Earth Day, Rob also suggested we do a My Turn piece for the Concord Monitor, and Dot said that 350 NH is interested in including Weatherize Concord in its “Call to Action.”
- Weatherize Concord participants could benefit from grants beyond what the utilities cover (preparing buildings for weatherization, for coverage of weatherization costs beyond the rebate limit, offsetting costs of air source heat pumps, training Weatherization workers). Brainstormed about what funding sources would be available for this. (NH Charitable foundation maybe?)
- New members of Weatherize Concord group include Noah Buckner (NHTI student) and Keri Brand (DHHS). Keri stated interest in learning more about the health benefits of weatherization. Anne Karczmarczyk joined CEEAC call and indicated interest in reaching commercial customers.
- Dana Nute (Resilient Buildings Group) has been calling businesses to get them enrolled.
- Weatherize Subcommittee meetings continue weekly on Fridays (with the next meeting on Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at noon). Anyone is welcome to join and please reach out to Jessica to be added to the Weatherize Concord google group.

### **I. New Hampshire Legislative Session**

- **Legislative hearings/bill status**

*Rob provided an update:*

- Mayor Bouley is part of a group of 13 mayors that meet regularly to discuss legislative issues
- HB 106 allows net metering for municipalities. There is debate around the details, but it is likely to pass in some form. Once passed, it would allow Concord to move forward on solar arrays on the landfill as we had hoped.
- SB109 - *relative to municipal host customer generators serving political subdivisions* – Likely to pass.
- HB 315 - Community Power Bill. Has been fixed. Still some adjustments needed, but it is getting there. We now support it.
- Clean Energy Procurement bill- going to Senate as SB 151
- HB 213-Bill about cutting Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requirement has been retained so not going anywhere right now. This is a good thing.
- House bill that would split PUC – seems to be a lot of support. DOE proposal appears to be gaining steam.

## **II. New Business**

- **Announcements**

Meredith Hatfield said she is moving out of Concord and resigning from City Council (April 12) and CEEAC. Special election in Ward 4 in June. Hopes to continue to engage with CEEAC as an observer and volunteer.

- **ICLEI-USA**

Rob proposed joining ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability. Portsmouth and Keene are members. Member benefits include capacity building, networking, and ClearPath software license. Membership fee is \$600

Meredith would support Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA) membership before ICLEI. Waste disposal debate is going to heat up before contract renewal in 2024. Concord could benefit from being a member, and the city/committee need assistance and expertise in this area. NRRA benefits include access to programming and advice, and maintain/strengthening recycling program. Risk is that it may be difficult to keep curbside recycling contract in current environment.

Discussed inviting a member to join the committee who can add some solid waste expertise and leadership. Rob to look at attendee list from Reagan Bissonette's (NRRA) presentation with committee about 15 months ago to identify any possible new members.

Sam: Supports ICLEI membership, regardless. Thinks it would be very useful to have access to ClearPath to continue to track GHG emissions, continuing the work that Amina started.

Nick: Agrees. Having done GHG accounting at St. Paul's, thinks access to ClearPath would be really helpful. The alternative is a lot of spreadsheets

Rob: Networking is a useful benefit of ICLEI membership.

*Rob and Meredith to talk with Tom Aspell about these two memberships, NRRA and ICLEI.*

- **Race to Zero campaign**

Rob: Proposes joining Race to Zero campaign in leadup to COP 26. Consistent with agreements we have joined before.

Nick: Thinks Concord has done much of the work already, so why not.

*Nick makes motion to join Race to Zero, Chuck seconds. All approved. Rob to present this to City Council.*

- **CEEAC work session**

*Rob proposes a work session on a weekend in early May to set priorities for committee work for the rest of the year. Will be a publicly noticed meeting.*

We are still recruiting people to join the CEEAC. Anne Karczmarczyk indicated interest in joining Weatherize Concord subcommittee to provide expertise in outreach to commercial customers. *Jessica to add to email list and invite to meetings.*

Carl: Dartmouth Energy Forum - \$20 per person, virtual, <https://energyconference.dartmouth.edu/> . May be of interest to committee members.

### **III. Adjournment**

*8:26pm - Nick moved to adjourn meeting, Jerry seconded. Unanimously approved.*