

CITY OF CONCORD
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 1, 2020

The Concord Energy and Environment Advisory Committee met virtually via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on October 1, 2020.

Attendees: City Councilor Rob Werner, Carl Cooley, Chuck Willing, Dot Currier, Kelsey Sullivan, Jessica Forrest, Nick Babladelis, Henry Herndon, City Councilor Meredith Hatfield, Jennifer Galbraith

Absent: Matthew Thorne, Jerry Eaton, Sam Durfee

Staff: None

Guest(s): None

Rob moves to accept September EEAC minutes, with two corrections: "August 3" appears in two places, where it should be "September 3." Unanimously Approved as so revised.

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Municipal Properties Update
 - Not much in way of new updates.
 - Revision will be attending a Planning Board meeting, but date is not yet known.
 - EEAC will have opportunity to submit testimony once date is known.
- III. Concord Crossing Development Update (Exit 17)
 - Development Policy Working Group has not had any meetings or discussions. Kelsey is conducting preliminary research on what other cities have done and will share with the working group before the November EEAC meeting.
- IV. Greenhouse Gas Inventory
 - Amina Grant joined Rob, Jessica and Sam on Tuesday morning for a media briefing.
 - David Brooks and Annie Ropeik were on the line. NHPR story was published, and Concord Monitor article expected in the next few days.
 - Jessica would like to talk next steps. Amina's research revealed emissions are a high concern in the City, especially natural gas emissions.
 - Meredith asks: when was the last Button Up workshop in Concord?
 - Rob believes it was 2 years ago with Bob Eldridge
 - Meredith believes Liberty is out of their efficiency rebate funding this year, due to high popularity of programs during Covid promotions
 - Henry suggests planning a Button Up workshop for early 2021

- Meredith suggests reaching out to Don Kreis or Madeleine Mineau. There should be a statewide public education and outreach campaign that municipalities could plug into. More should be demanded from NH Saves.
- Henry points out that Vital Communities has already developed outreach/education plans that can be adapted to Concord. EEAC could then seek funding from the utility programs.
- EEAC has had previously productive meetings with Vital Communities and utilities representatives to discuss tailoring a plan to Concord. Henry will circulate notes from one of those meetings.
- Meredith suggests reaching out to Bob Reals, Unutil again to re-visit the idea of putting together a Button Up workshop in early 2021.
- Nick brings up point-of-sale educational materials (ex: NH Saves flyers on dehumidifiers, other appliances sold at the hardware store). Possible to coordinate with utilities to increase point of sale outreach?
- Rob suggests identifying the top 20 emitting buildings. Amina's research can also be useful in targeting top emitters.
- Meredith suggests having Sarah from Vital Communities attend an EEAC meeting.
- Jessica suggests setting up an EEAC website, separate from the City website page (with City permission)
 - In previous meetings, EEAC considered forming a Communications working group. Should we re-visit that idea?

V. Solid Waste Advisory Committee Referral

- Meredith reached out to Brian LeBrun to ask him to run some financial reports on switching from use of single-use plastics to alternative materials on City property
 - Also reached out to Adam Clark. The Arena will switch to paper products, because it is a price difference of only \$300.
- Using compostable projects is problematic at the moment because there is not widespread industrial composting in NH. State regulations are outdated, still outlawing the composting of meat and dairy.
 - DES is legally required to update the regulations, but lacking in staffing and resources
 - Meredith suggests inviting Don Brueggermann to come speak. Don is the owner of The Works, the only Concord business to offer composting (using Mr. Fox company from Maine)
 - Opportunity to ask him about business aspects, and if he has insight into the DES rulemaking
 - Ryan Hvizda of InTown Concord and BonaFide Green Goods may also be interested in attending.
- Nick points out that St. Paul's used to do commercial composting with Casella. Challenge was that most collection companies do not want compostable plastic

items. Many “compostable” items are not really compostable (such as compostable hot drink cups with plastic linings)

- World Centric makes a waste wheat straw- or waste sugar cane-based cup lined with PLA plastic (made from corn or other starchy crop).
- Switching to plastic alternatives can still be environmentally beneficial, even if industrial composting is not available for the foreseeable future.

VI. New Business

- Meredith: Starbucks Planning Board meeting coming up.
 - Future Storrs Street development: Starbucks says a drive-through is necessary if Starbucks is going to locate there. Opportunity for residents to submit testimony at the Planning Board meeting
- Meredith suggests switching EEAC meetings to last Wednesday of every month. Last Thursday conflicts with Showing Up for Racial Justice (Concord chapter) meeting.
- Jennifer asks about new group net metering regime using Alternative On Bill Credits.
 - Henry: CENH will be coming out with a fact sheet addressing change in group net metering rules. In short, group net metering participants will get a credit directly on their individual bills, rather than credits being first allocated to the group host and then distributed to participants.

Henry moves to adjourn. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourns.