

CONCORD ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Thursday April 9, 2020

7:00pm

Remote by Zoom, Concord, NH

Attendance: Councilor Rob Werner, Dorothy Currier, Sam Durfee (Planning Department), Rich Maher, Gerald Eaton, Chuck Willing, Kelsey Sullivan, Jennifer Galbraith, Carl Cooley, Meredith Hatfield

Absent: Henry Herndon, Matthew Thorne

Minutes: Jessica Forrest (volunteer)

I. Welcome and Introductions

7:03 pm - Rob opens the meeting and reads the following as required:

“Due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu’s Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Committee is authorized to meet electronically. The public has access to contemporaneously listen and participate in this meeting through the website address or by dialing 1-929-205-6099 and entering the password 203176159#. <https://zoom.us/j/203176159> If there are problems accessing the meeting, please call 603-568-8515 or e-mail at planning@concordnh.gov”

Rob took role call and asked if any others are present in the room at member remote locations.

Chuck Willing noted that his 8-year old daughter was in and out. Others noted they were the only in attendance from their homes.

II. Municipal Properties Update

Solar Development at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is proceeding. Vendor chosen: Revision Energy. On Monday night, City Manager will enter into contract negotiation

Committee in the planning department that is running RFP’s is going to hold off on landfill portion until later this year when we know what will happen with net metering.

Attributes of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Installation:

- Wastewater treatment installation will be behind-the-meter and serve partial needs of the wastewater treatment plant.
- The size of the solar installation at 300 KW is conservative in scope and size. It could be larger, but below 500 KW as a result of avoiding the reclosure mechanism.

- The proposed project would generate 12% to 15% of the electric needs of the wastewater treatment plant, depending upon the final size of the project. (% of needs met was clarified in follow-up conversation between Rob Werner and Beth Greenblatt of Beacon Integrated Solutions and communicated to committee by email).
- The project will be very visible from Hall Street, which will be a benefit from a public education perspective.
- Additional solar capacity could be installed at the wastewater treatment plant if state policy is improved.

Justification:

- Want to capture existing tax incentives this year, which will decrease next year.
- Get something built of benefit to city that fits with energy plan and commitments
- Can put an additional installation @ wastewater treatment plant (and landfill) at a later date once state policy is supportive.
- Public awareness and education as a result of visibility on Hall Street

Status of Net Metering bill HB 1218:

Bill has come out of committees. Then they will go to floor. It is a priority for Science, Tech and Energy committee. Includes compromise legislation

Legislature currently scheduled to come back in early May. Nobody expects that to occur. May be as late as July that legislature comes back. May be a special session of legislature in September.

Discussion (initiated by Rich) developed over how much of wastewater treatment plant energy needs will be met by the project. Rob said he would go back and check. (Corrected estimate of 12-15% was provided by Beth Greenblatt, Energy Consultant from Beacon Integrated Solutions during follow-up conversation).

Chuck: in favor of it being as big as it can be. It is a positive that the installation will be behind-the-meter. As a result, Concord should get more bang for buck economically.

III. UNH Sustainability Fellow – Amina Grant

Rob: We have offered the UNH Sustainability Fellowship to Amina Grant for the summer. She is an Environmental and Civil Engineering student from University of Iowa.

Just this week, we were informed that the fellowship will at least begin as a remote fellowship. Hopefully at some point she will be able to come to Concord. When Sam, Jessica and Rob spoke, we didn't think that working remotely should affect the deliverables in any way – she should have what she needs to do the work from afar. We will help her arrange zoom meetings with stakeholders as needed.

Attaching her resume for more information.

IV. Weatherize Concord

Rob: Asked to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2020 Weatherize Concord Meeting

Meredith asked that highlighting be removed first

Committee approved minutes.

Rob: Referring to email from Henry

Should timeline for Weatherize Concord campaign be revised in light of the pandemic, social distancing, stay-at-home procedures

David Brooks (Concord Monitor) says there will be no Earth Day supplement due to the lack of advertising revenue

Carl: Everyone is distracted by pandemic and now may not be the time to launch. Need to refocus on what the weatherize campaign might look like in this context

Can we currently prepare marketing materials... to eventually release when the time is right?

Energy efficiency work can't even happen right now...

Need to reconvene and revise strategy

Chuck: We probably need to pause until 2021 on a residential weatherization campaign

Jessica: Can we focus efforts on commercial and municipal government weatherization while people are at home due to pandemic?

Jennifer: Revision Energy has closed residential solar business, now doing commercial and ground arrays

Carl: Commercial weatherization seems to make sense

Jennifer: Agree

Rob: For revising/implementing the strategy, should the group be big or small?

Dot: likes the idea of big group / whole committee

Rob: not a lot of work now. Suggests committee as a whole

Carl: yes, but it should be optional

Meredith: CEEAC Facebook page. Jonathan Gregory – former committee member and the last administrator of fb page – gave Meredith admin privileges and she has shared with Henry.

People are going to the page these days and thinks it's a good opportunity to advertise and add content, perhaps weekly. Meredith happy to take lead with help.

Committee members should reach out to her and tell her if willing to be an administrator.

Kelsey and Dot volunteered to help.

Rob: name of Facebook page should be changed to Concord Energy and Environment *Advisory* Committee. Meredith agreed to update it.

Dot: can we put info on there talking about the weatherization process and what we want to do – even if it can't happen right now. Also, wondering if there are some really simple existing public awareness materials about Weatherizing and the auditing process that they can link to.

Meredith – maybe Stay Warm NH. She'll look around for these materials.

Rich – Recommends emphasizing the financial savings to homeowners in the audit. (50% of the work, plus energy efficiency savings in future...

Meredith: If you don't qualify for an audit because of low usage, they'll provide a visual audit and a wi-fi thermostat (though on-hold with pandemic)

Dot –suggests having a resource page to link to

Rob: Will prepare with Henry a meeting request to redo timeline and strategy for the weatherization campaign.

Kelsey: Also need to establish volunteer roles

Rob: Maybe look at Upper Valley weatherization work and their roles and responsibilities

Dot: Maybe meet with Sarah (Upper Valley) to get more information.

Dot: plans to talk with Dana Newt for an easy way to understand the process

Rob: will get back with Henry for follow up meeting

V. Other business

Rob: Any new business?

Question about if we need to reschedule remote meeting times due to conflict.

Sam: yes, we should pick a new temporary meeting date.

Remote meetings will be first Thursday of the month. Next CEEAC meeting rescheduled to May 7th.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:04pm. All in favor.