

CITY OF CONCORD
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF JUNE 4, 2020

The Concord Energy and Environment Advisory Committee met at 7:00 p.m., on June 4, 2020, virtually.

Attendees: City Councilor Rob Werner, Carl Cooley, Henry Herndon, Chuck Willing, Dot Currier, Matthew Thorne, Jennifer Galbraith, City Councilor Meredith Hatfield, Kelsey Sullivan, Jerry Eaton

Absent:

Staff: Sam Durfee

Guest(s): Amina Grant, Chris Knight

I. Welcome and Introductions

Carl moves to accept May EEAC minutes. Chuck seconds. Unanimously Approved.

II. Municipal Properties Update

- Hall Street solar project implementation
 - City hopes to sign a contract for a ~500 kilowatt solar array soon.

III. UNH Sustainability Institute Fellow (Amina Grant)

- GHG Emissions Inventory
 - Jessica has acquired a lot of data. Some inquiries remain pending with the utilities Unitil and Liberty.
 - Gary Miller of Unitil is the Account Representative who fields data requests. The experience with Unitil and Liberty with data requests has been that it requires multiple requests and pestering over the course of several months to access the community data that is requested.
 - The inventory will start with Municipal operations, and potentially expand to the commercial and residential sectors.
 - Hopefully this work will build momentum towards hiring an energy/sustainability staff person. There will not be a sustainability/energy staff position in this year's city budget, due to the constraints associated with economic and public health crises.
 - Positive feedback and messaging from EEAC and citizens to the administration and Council comments about supporting the eventual addition of a sustainability/energy staff person.
 - Sam suggests that "Energy Manager" might be more attractive and appropriate than "Sustainability Manager"; the person may end up playing

a strong role in Community Power implementation. Regardless of title, it will be important for the person's role to be cross departmental flexible in scope to allow for system wide benefits that permeate throughout the City and the administration

- Virtual Workplan implementation
 - Amina started this week. Sam, Amina, and others from EEAC have participated in some onboarding programming with UNH and the Sustainability Institute
 - Amina has been getting up to speed by reviewing city audits, energy reports, 100% Renewable Energy Strategic Plan, and other documentation. Global Protocol for Community Scale Greenhouse Gas and other protocols and standards are helping inform and guide Amina's work.

IV. Net Metering Support letter

- June 8th City Council meeting will address the letter voicing support for a common sense, bi-partisan net metering compromise.
- House of Representatives is slated to meet on Thursday June 11 (pending resolution of partisan rules dispute)

V. Solid Waste Advisory Committee Referral

- Plastic ban
- Next steps for EEAC consideration
 - What are EEAC's recommendations on solid waste reform? For example, Portsmouth passed a Styrofoam ban in City operations (which was supported strongly by the Portsmouth High School, support which likely contributed to the passage of the ban).
 - Conservation Law Foundation and Sierra Club work on waste issues.
 - The City has a lot of authority over internal City operations, Council meetings, Planning Board meetings, etc.; single use plastic should be eliminated from those settings as a first step.
 - There is an open legal question as to whether NH municipalities have the authority to ban plastics community-wide, or for particular events. But we certainly have the authority within City facilities.
- **TIP OF THE DAY:** At the grocery store, when you check out, just put your groceries back in your cart and bag them at your car in your reusable bags! No more getting buried in silly plastic bags from the grocery store!

VI. Weatherize Concord 2020

- Program Launch Status
- NHSaves Program proposes significant increases in subsidy level:
 - "Home Performance with ENERGY STAR
 - Increase incentive for insulation and health & safety from 50% to 90%.

- Increase per home incentive cap from \$4,000 to \$8,000
 - Over \$8,000 allowed with utility supervisor review
 - New cap includes heating systems. include heating system incentives
- Customer must install recommended electric savings measures in order to get weatherization incentives
- Increased incentives initially available for projects that complete by November 15."
- Meredith has been promoting energy efficiency programs on the Facebook page.
- Next Steps

VII. New Business/Announcements

- a. EV Chargers: The State is looking for a company to put two Level 2 Chargers at the Department of Justice parking lot. Potential development locations for EVs:
 - i. Exit 13, Exit 17, and Storrs Street.
- b. Community Power: Sam, Carl, Dot, and Henry will be participating in a three-hour Community Power Summit on Friday, June 5th along with 80 other registrants representing elected officials, municipal and county staff, and energy committees from 25 towns, 5 cities, and 1 county.

Chuck motions to adjourn. Dot seconds. Unanimously approved.