

CITY OF CONCORD
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF JULY 2, 2020

The Concord Energy and Environment Advisory Committee met at 7:00 p.m., on July 2, 2020, virtually.

Attendees: City Councilor Rob Werner, Carl Cooley, Chuck Willing, Dot Currier, Jennifer Galbraith, Kelsey Sullivan, Jerry Eaton, Jessica Forrest, Nick Babladelis, Rich Maher

Absent: Matthew Thorne, Henry Herndon, City Councilor Meredith Hatfield

Staff: Sam Durfee

Guest(s): Amina Grant, Jeff Hoadley, Christopher Knight

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Henry has retired from taking meeting minutes
 - Jessica & Kelsey to rotate taking minutes
- Rich intends to resign as Committee member, will stay on as volunteer
 - opens up a member vacancy
- Welcome Jessica Forrest and Nick Babladelis as new formal members

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

II. Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Referral

- General Services Department input (Jeff Hoadley, Deputy Director)
- Referral arose from SWAC October meeting
 - committee member brought forward idea of City ban on single use plastics
- Application to City venues discussed
 - City Arena
 - has concession stand that uses single use plastics
 - SWAC Chairman asked for cost estimate of switching the Arena over to compostable items – would be about \$300 extra annually
- Possible other venues/events
 - Golf Course
 - Memorial Field
 - Market Days
- Uncertainty surrounding municipality’s authority to implement such bans
 - bills were pending in legislature to allow such municipal-level bans, hopefully will be taken up in 2021 session
- Rob to try to get in touch with Portsmouth Sustainability Director

- to get update on the implementation and progress of Portsmouth’s ban of certain single use plastics on City property (Ordinance to officially take effect in December 2020)
- More complete financial analysis needed
 - venues beyond the Arena
 - other venues
 - other City departments that may have information:
 - Parks & Rec (Memorial Field)
 - Purchasing
 - is there a payback period?
- Resources & Ideas could be posted on the Committee Facebook
 - Stephanie Bretton – City’s communications coordinator
 - Library, Parks & Rec, General Services have their own communications coordinator
- St. Paul’s made a “soft” transition to all bio-based products over the last year
 - clear bio-based plastics confuse consumers, can easily contaminate recycling bins
 - Nick created a suggested hierarchy of single-use materials for use at St. Paul’s
 - Brookline, MA has good resources on plastic bans
 - Nick can get information on school’s costs
 - ultimate goal of eliminating Styrofoam, similar materials
- Does the City provide plastic bag recycling?
 - consider implementing along with plastic ban
- Consider making plastic restriction a condition for certain events
 - InTown Concord event applications
 - permits issued by City’s Code Administration
- Committee sub-group on zero waste
 - next steps: to focus on data collection from City departments and preparing financial analyses

III. Municipal Properties Update

- Proposed solar facility (~500kW) on Hall Street Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP)
 - City Council voted to move forward in negotiations with Revision Energy
 - New report (to be made publicly available soon) contains important update:
 - City requiring the construction of an additional fence at the site
 - cost of additional fence makes the project uneconomical
 - committee working with Revision decided to remand this project to Council for consideration
 - merits of project to be discussed at July 13 City Council meeting – both financials and larger policy aspects

- Possible options for moving forward
 - Revision may have alternatives to City's fence requirement
 - Project could be delayed until next year and (if net metering legislation is passed) upsized to 2MW
 - Sam points out that if project is over 500 kW, Until requires installation of a recloser, which would be very expensive
 - Rich: has anyone priced out storage for both WWTP and the landfill?
 - would bypass both recloser and net metering issues
 - has Beth Greenblatt looked into the possibility of City funding this themselves? (issuing municipal bonds)
 - Chuck points out that City-funded project would not get Investment Tax Credit
 - Project could be made entirely behind-the-meter
 - no net metering at all
 - WWTP is a good candidate because load is fairly predictable & constant
- Any updates on landfill project?
 - no - waiting for the flexibility to be able to build a large project (ie, legislation to raise the net metering cap)

IV. UNH Sustainability Institute Fellow (Amina Grant)

- July 10 – midterm Sustainability Fellow presentation to the Sustainability Institute
 - 3 sessions (1 hour each)
 - 5 Fellows/session
 - break out groups to discuss different topics
- August 10 – City Council meeting
 - Amina will have opportunity to present what the project has accomplished
- Amina: Summary of work accomplished so far
 - soliciting & compiling data for GHG inventories
 - not all data entered yet
 - municipality: electricity use is biggest contributor to emissions
 - community as a whole: stationary uses, specifically commercial & industrial use of natural gas
 - Until has been very helpful
 - Gary Miller has been providing lots of data
 - Commercial businesses
 - Amina considering doing a representative sample survey of stationary fuels for electricity and vehicle fleets
 - creating survey for businesses to complete (50 – 100 businesses)
 - will give a better picture of where emissions coming from
 - Schools
 - inventory won't include the colleges/universities in town
- Next Steps

- outlining GHG Inventory report narrative
 - continuing to enter data into inventory tool
- Chuck: Do you have all of the Liberty Utilities data that you need?
 - Yes
 - what about fuel oil?
 - Amina working on trying to get state data and extrapolating using census data
- Data on households with solar?
 - would not be part of inventory, because solar does not contribute to emissions
 - Rob: the assessor's office recently sent out a communication regarding recent tax exemption information
 - Another option: how many people have applied for permits to install solar
 - Sam can pull a report on how many permits have been issued
- No data yet on electric retail suppliers (customers not on default service)
 - Nick: PUC publishes that information annually, and has been shared with Amina
- Amina: required to add statement regarding social justice to the report, any ideas?
 - to meet with Matthew Thorne on July 17 to discuss ideas
 - maybe transit access, affordable housing
 - low-income working group met with the Community Action Program last fall – which culminated in planning the Weatherize Campaign (put on hold due to Covid-19)
 - may be possible to collect data on low income energy usage and energy needs

V. New Business/Announcements

- Any update on Community Power NH?
 - Rob: City administration is interested in the idea
 - a Community Power Group would need to be affirmatively designated by City Council
 - Committee can play a role by making recommendations, educating City administration on what Community Power is and what its benefits are
 - also stakeholder education
- Ideas on filling Committee Member vacancy?
 - Chris suggests reaching out to high school environment club

Chuck motions to adjourn. Jessica seconds. Unanimously approved.