

LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, the meeting was held virtually via MS Teams

April 23, 2020

2:00 PM

FINAL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Clifton Below (Chair, Council Representative), Greg Ames (Vice-Chair) Joan Monroe (Planning Board Representative), Jon Chaffee, Woody Rothe, Meghan Butts, Gene Homicki (alternate)

STAFF PRESENT: Tad Montgomery, Jim Donison

GUESTS PRESENT: None

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Clifton Below at 2:25 PM. Clifton appointed Gene Homicki to fill vacant LHS student representative position.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Woody moved to accept the 2/20/2020 minutes as presented; Greg seconded. Joan mentioned she needs to be added to list of members present; Tad had several minor amendments/corrections; he will update the draft minutes. Approved unanimously, with corrections, by roll call vote.

UPDATES & ISSUES IN ONGOING PROJECTS:

- **EV Subcommittee & PUC IR 20-004 EV Charging Rates**

No update from the EV Subcommittee; Subcommittee did not meet this month. Clifton made comments re: proposed EV charging rates; he feels that most of the recommendations are good but has some concerns with the terms of the time of use rate as presented. Clifton plans to file comments addressing this, and work with Liberty and OCA to present a rate model similar to what was presented during the battery pilot. Electrify America project continues. Site survey completed and sent out. Boundary lines are missing from the map, possibly because it is the remaining parcel after several parcels were carved out. Clifton found a map from 1971 that appears to show the railway right of way as only 18ft wide, which should be small enough to avoid issues with Electrify America. Meghan plans to set up an EV Subcommittee meeting next month.

- **City Solar Phase 1 and Phase 2**

Phase 1 is up and running. Tad is working on adding solar buyout to CIP for 2025. Solar phase 2 to start – Airport and City Hall. Tad has a proposal for 84kW DC using one row of dual access trackers. Is that more than we can use behind the meter at the airport? Another site has been proposed to the West. Woody added that he met with Mark

Goodwin in January and came up with several sites that could be added at Phase 2. Further discussion to be had at solar subcommittee meeting to be scheduled by Greg after this meeting. Clifton noted that default service rates and electricity demand are dropping, which may impact payback.

- **LED Streetlight Conversion Project – DE 19-064 & DE 19-187**

Settlement discussions have not been finalized, so Clifton cannot discuss publicly at this time. Clifton expects that settlement discussions will be finalized soon, and that the City can issue an RFP in late May.

- **Other Energy & Facilities Manager Updates (see attached)**

During Energy & Facility Manager's report, Tad discussed the Greenhouse Gas Report he and Mark have worked on (in SharePoint folder under Climate Initiative for further review). Benefit/cost columns (L and M) show red for negative/cost and black for cash flow positive.

LEBANON COMMUNITY POWER UPDATE:

C DFA grants are fully subscribed. Tad believes funds do not need to be spent until end of Next fiscal year (Jun 30, 2021). Clifton has drafted a set of Community Power Aggregation rules to meet various concerns. Some utility pushback (i.e., "should this be moved to Grid Modernization Docket?"). COVID-19 pandemic might make it difficult to launch Community Aggregations, due to bad debt concerns that may accrue due to economic downturn and NH rules regarding purchase of receivables. May need to resolve some of these issues before LCP launch. Tad is working on first draft of an aggregation plan, based on Redwood Coast Energy Authority and Pioneer Valley aggregations (Amherst, Northampton, and Pelham, MA). Documents from these two and our drafts are in the SharePoint folder. We have also had conversations on working with Manchester and Nashua. May do an RFQ prior to RFP for LCP.

Public Hearing 5/6 on Tax Exemption for Electric Energy Storage Systems

Clifton presented a spreadsheet analysis of tax rates of varying generation utilities. Analysis shows that battery storage is higher tax/kWh than other capital-intensive forms of generation (ie, solar), and that these tax rates disadvantage these desired capital-intensive projects.

Exempting storage from property tax helps make these desired projects more cost effective.

Woody moved, Joan seconded that the City exempt energy storage systems from property tax. Passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Opportunity to Propose Generic Energy & Climate Policies for NHMA

Clifton presented his proposed Draft NHMA Policy on Climate and Sustainability. Committee members will review and discuss at the next meeting.

City Position on Expanding Net Metering – see attached draft letter circulated by Clean Energy NH

The Committee discussed Clifton's proposed changes to the Municipal letter re Net Metering, with the addition of "substantially the same terms as." There was consensus to support this change, but no vote was taken.

OTHER & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

None

REPORTS & NOTICES of energy related Conferences, Webinars, & Events

Dartmouth Energy Collaborative lunches have moved online and may be easier for others to see. Tad mentioned a Solar/Pollinator webinar on 5/5 from CESA (Clean Energy State's Alliance). Joan mentioned Antioch New England Webinar on climate impacts to wetland ecosystems on Mon 4/27. Joan also mentioned that TomTom traffic stats are being used to track world-wide changes to traffic flows due to pandemic. Clifton mentioned "H2O," a documentary on water.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Woody would like to discuss energy-efficient building code updates at May meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

Scheduled for Thursday, May 21st at 2pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Woody to adjourn the meeting at 4:29 PM. The motion was seconded by Gene. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Gregory Ames