

**Final**

**LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2019  
LEBANON LIBRARY 4:00PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Clifton Below (Chair), Keith Davio (Planning Board Rep), Meghan Butts, Johnathan Chaffee, Greg Ames, Peter Beardsley (Alt.), Gene Homicki (Alt.)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Karen Hill (Alt. Council Rep.), Woody Rothe

**STAFF PRESENT:** Tad Montgomery (Energy & Facilities Manager)

**GUEST:** Barbara Hirai (Street Light Committee), Pat McGovern, Andrew Hatch (Resilient Buildings/Liberty Utilities), Susan Kaplan

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**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Below called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM. Chair Below appointed Gene Homicki voting privileges in the absence of Woody Rothe.

**2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** • January 17, 2019

*Keith Davio MOVED to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Greg Ames.  
\*The MOTION passed 6-0.*

Amendments: Page 2 Line 13: Remove ‘renovate.’ Page 3 Line 19: Remove ‘the Governor’s Representative’ and Add ‘a person.’

Chair Below suggested that they begin the meeting by introducing the guests. Andrew made a brief presentation discussed in the Other Section of the Agenda. The members and visitors introduced themselves.

**3. ENERGY & FACILITIES MANAGER REPORT**

Mr. Montgomery presented his update. The City Hall renovation is scheduled to start. The first work will be redoing the roof and the fifth floor. The IT Dept. will also be moved to the main floor. Resilient Buildings Group (RBG) has been retained as the energy consultant. The police department energy audit report from RBG is expected soon. The library will require Board of Trustees approval to make any solar renovations.

Mr. Goodwin is taking over selecting and working with the new student fellow to work with the City. They will vet the applicants and have not selected any applicants to interview at this time.

He spoke of the project in Hartford where half of the energy from a solar project is going to a mobile home park for residents with low incomes. Hartford is also offering guidance on other community services that would benefit the residents.

**4. STREET LIGHTING UPDATE**

Mr. Donison, the DPW Director, is taking over the street light project. He asked Mr. Montgomery to work on the list of recommended street light removals and additions. There have been suggestions by

some committee members. Mr. Montgomery will review the way Hartford made their decisions about removals and compare their standards to Lebanon standards. He is looking for the criteria and will ask about the community response to the changes. The public forums are going to be held April 10 at City Hall and April 17 at Kilton Library. They discussed some of the concerns of the Ped & Bike Committee regarding the lighting. They talked about the importance of getting the residents involved to give feedback that they will consider regarding the streetlights. The recommendations are not set in stone at this time. They will also seek input from the Police Department and recommendations for school pathways and bus stops.

## **5. LFGTE UPDATE**

Chair Below said the next meeting was postponed to February 22 and there is no new information about the cost benefit. Recently Liberty Utility expressed interest in purchasing the gas, but so far it is not cost effective to move forward on this project. He is hoping there will be a full presentation at the next LEAC meeting. There is an electric generation option that may be feasible.

There are efforts for producing clean renewable energy for transportation. It could be worth 9 to 13 cents per kilowatt hour. This could become substantial revenue to the City. It is too new to know for sure at this time. The City may be able to sell the energy at recharging stations for vehicles.

## **6. SOLAR UPDATE**

Four members are participating in the review of the solar proposals. They have narrowed them down to 2 companies from the 6 vendors that applied. They are still considering if they will work with one or more contractors. It is likely that City Hall and the Police Department are not suitable for solar. There are still 10 or 11 sites that are being considered and other sites may be added to this first round of projects. The second round of solar improvements are still planned to take place.

## **7. LEGISLATION UPDATE**

There are several bills that were filed in the Senate that Chair Below is following. Three have had hearings. The bill about outdoor lights and the requirement to try to conform to local policies, such as warmer temperature lights, was well received. The DOT is thinking about changing from 4000K to 3000K lights because warmer lights are perceived to be less disruptive for sleep and healthier for people. They are efficient and provide the required amount of light. There was some discussion about allowing municipalities to own the street lights and to allow metering from the street lights. These lights would allow dimming of the lights as well.

The second bill addressed the overhaul of the municipal aggregation statute. The committee is supportive of the bill, so it is hopeful it will move forward. CLF and Clean Energy are making a major push for the legislation. Several people appeared in support of the bill. Liberty Utilities filed written testimony against it. There are many municipalities that have Community Choice Aggregations and some of them are maximizing the benefits of these programs.

The third bill dealt with protecting personal energy information. It limits the collection of data which could impact research. This would hinder the use of data for future developments and improvement.

The fourth bill addressed raising the net metering cap from one to five megawatts.

Chair Below mentioned the consumer advocate bill that proposed a multi-use platform. Data is powerful and access to that information has been historically limited, but now it is more accessible. Hanover paved the way to getting this information out of the utility systems. The members discussed how data would help determine where it could be feasible to use batteries to absorb the energy.

**8. MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:** Preliminary review of Outcomes & Strategies in Energy Chapter of Master Plan & selection of a “CHaMP” – a Master Plan Chapter Champion.

Chair Below introduced the role of being a CHaMP for the Master Plan. The City intends to use the Master Plan as a living document. Essentially, it is an annual report to show how the City is doing annually on the Master Plan. The City chose to break the plan down and ask the appropriate committees to address the action items and outcomes. LEAC is involved with Chapter 13. The principle task is to do a preliminary review of assigned outcomes. Chair Below is asking for member(s) to review all the outcomes, strategies and actions to see where the committee is related to the goals of the Master Plan. This process will be helpful to help set future priorities. They want to answer what has been accomplished, what is partially done and what is on the list for the future.

Ms. Butts offered to work with the CHaMP documents. The Vice Chair agreed to assist her with the work. The reporting will provide an opportunity to show all the accomplishments that have come about from this Committee and to inform the community of these accomplishments. Once the reporting is functioning properly, the City will consider making updates to the Master Plan.

**9. REPORTS & NOTICES:** of energy related Conferences, Webinars, & Events

The Dartmouth Energy Collective gave a talk about the use of batteries that was previously discussed in this meeting.

Mr. Montgomery mentioned a webinar by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory that introduced a tool (REopt lite) that will help develop and design affordable Renewable Energy systems with battery storage.

Local Energy Solutions will have a webinar on February 26. It will address solar energy for low income residents.

Vital Communities is starting to plan for the annual round table. It will be held during the first week in May at the high school in White River Junction.

**10. OTHER AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

At the start of the meeting, Johnathan Chaffee introduced Andrew Hatch from Resilient Buildings Group (RBG). As a follow-up to the Business Energy Innovation Conference, Liberty Utilities contracted with RBG to have Mr. Hatch work with businesses in Hanover and Lebanon for energy efficiency. He is developing their existing Incentive Programs. Liberty is offering 0% on-bill financing. He is working in the commercial, industrial and municipal arenas. One of the new programs will make it easier and quicker to receive small incentive payments.

Ms. Susan Kaplan came to the meeting to observe. She has previously worked with utilities and municipalities.

Ms. Butts reported on her thesis which included substantial data and was a working document to encourage to use of electric vehicles (EVs) in Lebanon. Chair Below is hoping this work will be the start of an Electric Vehicle subcommittee formed out of the members of LEAC. Her thesis evaluated commuter data and what the options are for people using EVs within Lebanon. It is hoped this will help create a City policy about making stations for EVs available in the community. Because there are potential funding sources, it seems like now is the time to move on this idea.

They discussed how smart street lights have the capability to provide billing support for charging stations. That means there is more potential with the street lights than has been in the past. Mr. Beardsley, Mr. Ames and Ms. Butts volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

***Johnathan Chaffee MOVED to create an electric vehicle subcommittee with Chair Meghan Butts, Peter Beardsley and Greg Ames. The Chair will be allowed to appoint additional members. Seconded by Gene Homicki.***

***\*The MOTION passed unanimously 6-0.***

Mr. Montgomery reported that the City Manager asked for a life-cycle assessment of the cost for the City to buy electric vehicles.

The EVEC is going to review the proposed request to develop the old DPW site off Spencer Street. Chair Below is going to draft content regarding the extent to which a developer or project may be net zero energy or 100% renewable. Hopefully, this will be a factor in the scoring. There are good examples that affordable housing can be developed at below average cost because the building is energy efficient and there is a reduced cost for the HVAC system. There is some interest in developing these kinds of projects.

#### **11. NEXT MEETING DATE**

- LEAC: Thursday, March 21, 2019, West Meeting Room

#### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

***Keith Davio MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 5:49 PM.***

***Greg Ames seconded the MOTION.***

***\*The MOTION passed unanimously (6-0).***

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Billings  
Recording Secretary

Corrected/Amended: Peter Beardsley, LEAC Alternate