

FINAL

**LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**THURSDAY, July 18, 2019**  
**WEST MEETING ROOM – CITY HALL**  
**4:00 PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Clifton Below (Chair), Greg Ames, Meghan Butts, Gene Homicki (Alt.), Woody Rothe, Peter Beardsley (Alt.)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Johnathan Chaffee, Karen Hill (Alt. Council Rep.)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Tad Montgomery (Energy & Facilities Manager), Rebecca Owens (Associate Planner), Mark Goodwin (Planning GIS Coordinator)

**GUESTS:** Cassidy Yates, Darla Bruno, Judith Bush, Philip Bush

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**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Below called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

Peter Beardsley was appointed voting privileges for Johnathan Chaffee.

**2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** June 20, 2019

*Woody Rothe MOVED to approve the June 20, 2019 minutes as amended below.  
Seconded by Greg Ames.*

**Amendments:** Page 2, Line 10 Change ‘CMAG’ to ‘CMAQ’; Page 2, Line 25 Change ‘Tibbets’ to ‘Tebbetts’; Page 2, Line 43 Change ‘Exception’ to ‘exemption’; Page 3, Line 5 Change ‘RXc’ to ‘RCx’; Page 3, Line 19 Change ‘Continual’ to ‘Unresolved’; Page 3, Line 31 Change ‘March’ to ‘Marc’; Page 3, Line 42 Change ‘Sustainability’ to ‘gas inventory’; Minor spelling and grammatical corrections.

*\*The Vote on the MOTION passed (5-0).*

**3. BRIEF UPDATES**

**a. EV Subcommittee:**

Meghan Butts updated the Committee on the information discussed at the subcommittee meeting. They will focus on one site at the back of City Hall for the EV charging station for the City. There will be 5-6 possible parking spots. Electricity is already available at that location, by the street light. There is going to be a follow up with Liberty about the EV tariff. They are determining if they need to do an RFP.

**b. Solar:**

Tad Montgomery updated the Committee. He has been working on the contract with ReVision and the different project plans for the different sites. There has been some feedback from the locations including the height restrictions of trees. Throughout the total Phase One PPA project, the contract requires that the City will not allow the shade to increase by more than 15% compared to the current amount of shade. The total 15% is summed across all the arrays.

The waste water area has decreased the amount of the solar array by 1/3 and they will add solar to the roof on the shed building in that area. ReVision will remove and trim the trees in that area that need to be done.

The City is still discussing whether or not to buy the RECs and would like the option to make the purchase over the next 5 years. The contract only specifies purchasing them once in December 1, 2019. There was discussion that buying the RECs is an essential aspect to reducing the energy foot print of the City and moving to clean energy. The members discussed the cost of purchasing the RECs, around \$4500 per year for the first 5 years. The contract could end in year 6 and the City will have the option to buy the system and will own the RECs. Once the City purchases the system, they will be able to keep the RECs or sell them. Shaun Mulholland asked for feedback regarding the purchase of RECs.

#### **c. Legislation & PUC proceedings impact on LED Streetlight Conversion Project:**

Chair Below told the members that the PUC determined to not approve the LED-2 streetlight Liberty proposed tariff at this time. They did encourage a special contract with Liberty Utilities and the City. The Governor vetoed the bill on streetlighting that Chair Below worked on, that included the AMA recommendation for the temperature of street lights. The next step may be to override the veto or to work with the PUC. The veto was a surprise.

#### **d. Municipal Aggregation**

The Municipal Aggregation legislation is still pending the Governor's signature or veto. The members are working on getting tax credit pledges for the CDF Grant. Once the legislation work is done, there will be more time available to work on the municipal aggregation. They are looking for companies who are willing to purchase the tax credits.

#### **e. Energy Efficient & Stretch Building Codes**

Rocky Mountain Institute's Pathways to Zero was presented by Chair Below. Their website is dedicated to best practices for Zero over Time, or how to move communities, businesses and homes, to net zero energy. This site would be useful for moving Lebanon toward implementation of construction stretch codes.

#### **f. UNH Sustainability Fellow – GHG Inventory**

Marc Goodwin gave an introduction to the project with the UNH sustainability program. They are working on a local government greenhouse gas inventory, directly related to City operations. This was done previously in 2009, and a small evaluation was done in 2015. This new project will address other categories. The data will be collected and organized in order to analyze the data using an EPA tool.

Ms. Yates presented a sample of the data and how it is being gathered and analyzed. They analyzed the water plant, streetlights, and heating fuel. Additionally, some fleet vehicle efficiency, employee commute and business travel can be analyzed. The Landfill calculation is complete because the Landfill keeps adequate data. The members discussed the impact of the flaring at the landfill and its impact on the emissions.

The end goal is to calculate the emissions in Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide for yearly comparisons. They are also gathering some information about the Lebanon community, that is being analyzed. The numbers from Liberty that represent total electric consumption are higher than what was previously provided and thought to be the case. This work is between Scope 1 and Scope 2. Scope 3 is something for the future.

#### **4. ENERGY & FACILITIES MANAGER REPORT**

The HVAC system at the Lebanon Library and the consideration of using Honeywell as the maintenance company are being reevaluated. Honeywell's work with the Police Department is being looked at. The Library is proceeding with overall renovations and the Lebanon Library may come off fossil fuels in the next few years. The City Hall renovation is about to begin. Mr. Montgomery is pleased with the spray foam insulation that will be used.

The Landfill Gas to Energy project will require a CIP to evaluate an aerobic digester. Proposals for that project will be done this month. The grant cannot be used until there is a pledge to buy the credits and the companies have written a check for the credits.

Mr. Montgomery has been doing additional work with Public Works. He is looking at the annual system electricity peak metering and the City's ability to curtail the load. It will be measured this weekend. The water treatment plant is requiring substantial energy to process the water due to the recent bad weather.

The recent electric contract that the City is working under has improved the cost compared to default services. The City Manager has asked that two streetlights on Miracle Mile by Listen get installed as soon as possible. The EV Committee has asked to install two chargers at each of the vehicle chargers. They are evaluating the costs and benefits of doing so.

#### **5. SHOULD THE CITY COMMIT TO THE COMPACT OF MAYORS?**

Mr. Goodwin presented the Compact of Mayors to the Committee. The City has made some progress, but not as much as hoped. The Compact of Mayors provides a methodology and framework to guide direction within New England. The main points are:

- Register policy commitments
- Take inventory
- Create reduction targets
- Establish a system of measurement
- Establish an action plan

Several Cities have approached it differently and are working together and sharing guidance and experience. The members also discussed the Ready for One Hundred Campaign.

The City's first step was to require an overall reduction. It is not clear what the City intended to reduce; were all aspects of energy use being addressed or just certain aspects of energy use. The City is lacking an overall climate action plan in the Master Plan. The members discussed where the City intends to go over the next 30 years.

The Compact of Mayors, now called the Global Covenant of Mayors would follow established protocols and standard community wide greenhouse inventories. The City does not have a plan about sustainability, such as farmer's markets and other ways that communities are intending to remain sustainable. The goal is to engage the community and energize people to work on the community's overall emissions. The Covenant reflects best practices and it has flexibility to adapt to what the City of Lebanon wants and needs to do. One hundred percent renewable would be one of the strategies under a plan.

Chair Below recommended that the City consider coming into this type of a program. It would allow the City to ramp up efforts for a climate action plan, such as reduction of greenhouse gas and adapting to a changing planet.

***Ms. Butts MOVED that LEAC recommend to the City Council that they consider joining and committing to the Global Covenant of Mayors framework.***

***Seconded by Mr. Ames.***

***\*The Vote on the MOTION passed (5-0).***

## **7. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

Darla Bruno asked the members to try to move the Council and not linger too long to decide to commit. She made several comments. By the end of this century there is a chance of a 40% rainfall increase, and there should be a way to sponge the rain. At Amherst, MA they found more places to put solar panels by installing them over parking spaces, similar to car ports with solar arrays on top.

## **8. UPCOMNG EVENTS**

The Upper Valley Electric Vehicle Expo (UVEVEXPO) will be held in Hartford. They are looking for volunteers and EV owners who want to show off an electric vehicle at the expo. It will be September 14.

Mr. Montgomery mentioned several additional events that are upcoming, including a film, and a cruise on Lake Sunapee for a discount if you mention LEAC. The Community Choice film discussion will be on July 23 at 4:00 PM. The presenter is Samuel Golding. It would be useful for the aggregation committee members to attend.

## **9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**10. NEXT MEETING DATE:** Thursday, August 15, 2019

## **11. ADJOURNMENT:**

***Greg Ames MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 PM.***

***Seconded by Mr. Woody Rothe.***

***\*The Vote on the MOTION passed unanimously (5-0).***

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Billings  
Recording Secretary