

CONCORD ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Wednesday November 7, 2018

7:00 pm

City Hall, Concord, NH

Minutes

In attendance: Rob Werner (Chair), Linda Kenison, Rich Maher, Zach Jonas, Deb Bruss, Jennifer Galbraith, Dave Brown, Jerry Eaton, Sam Durfee, Brian Buckley, Kelsey Sullivan, Dot Currier. Guests: Ridgeley Mauck, Bo Peterson, Hannah Smith.

At 7:00, Chairman Werner opened the meeting. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Rob, Rich and Chuck summarized the status of discussions regarding the development of a solar ordinance. The ordinance is expected to consist of changes to the zoning ordinance, site plan regulations and stormwater regulations. Rob, Rich and Chuck have been met with City staff to discuss the changes and will continue to meet. The two public information sessions in October were well-attended. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive in favor of changing or clarifying permitting processes to allow for more solar energy in the City. The proposed solar ordinance will be discussed at the November 14 Conservation Commission meeting. The main issue of contention is how the lot coverage requirement is defined and applied, especially to large solar projects in the rural open space district.

Rob summarized the work of the Municipal Property Ad Hoc Committee, which was chaired by Linda Kenison. The Committee issued a report to City Council asking for authority for an RFP to site solar projects at three city-owned properties – the closed landfill on Old Turnpike Road, the WWTP on Hall Street and the water treatment plant on Penacook Street. That report will be considered and potentially acted on at the November 12 City Council meeting. The RFP could be issued in early 2019.

The following subcommittees gave reports:

- Energy Efficiency. Jennifer reported that this subcommittee is focusing on converting street lights to LEDs. The background of streetlight conversion initiatives was discussed. The City is in discussions with Unitil on this topic.
- Clean Transportation. This subcommittee will miss Evan Mulholland's leadership. Areas of focus include discussions with the two school districts about converting their school bus fleets to electric, tracking the availability of Volkswagen settlement money and communicating about the same, working with TPAC and its subcommittees and generally encouraging the installation of EV charging stations where appropriate.
- Organization, Recruitment, Communications. This committee has met. The main focus right now is setting up the stakeholder committee meetings with the City and organizing

the recruitment of stakeholder committee members. Committee members divided up responsibility for contacting potential participants.

- Leadership and Strategic Planning. Rob, Rich and Chuck have met to draw up an initial outline of the Strategic Plan. It is intended to present an outline of the Strategic Plan at the first meeting of the Stakeholder Committee in January.

The Committee discussed the meeting of 100% renewable energy and allied communities in Hanover on November 2. Several of our committee members attended, and all agreed it was a valuable learning and networking experience. The Committee also discussed two upcoming events that Committee members are invited to attend - a presentation at the Energy Day meeting of the Leadership Greater Concord on November 14, and the Local Energy Solutions conference sponsored by NHSEA at the Grappone Center on November 16.

Hannah Smith of Standard Power, who joined the meeting late, introduced herself and indicated her interest in working with the Committee on municipal aggregation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.