

**CITY OF CONCORD
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF AUGUST 7, 2019**

The Concord Energy and Environment Advisory Committee met at 7:00 p.m., on August 7, 2019, in the Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 41 Green Street.

Attendees: Councilor Rob Werner, Councilor Linda Kenison, Henry Herndon, Chuck Willing, Rich Maher

Absent: Dave Brown, Deb Bruss, Jerry Eaton, Jennifer Galbraith

Staff: Sam Durfee (Planning)

Guest(s): Kelsey Sullivan, Councilor Meredith Hatfield, Brian Buckley, Dot Currier, Hannah Smith, Donna Reardon, Cathy Kilday, Jessica Forrest.

Agenda

Rob opens meeting at 7:25pm.

Zach Jonas has submitted his resignation. There are now 9 EEAC members.

Linda moves accept July minutes. Chuck seconds. Unanimously approved.

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Solar Ordinance Status

- Communication to City Council from EEAC and Planning Department
 - Planning recommending raising cap from 25 acres to 50.
 - No recommendation regarding land coverage.
 - Addition of wildlife corridor, as part of site plan regulations, not ordinance. Can be applied on a case-by-case basis.
 - May be addition of fencing requirements to protect wiring from wildlife (and vice versa).
- City Council meeting on 8/12/19
- Land coverage
 - Prior to the solar ordinance, 10% of land coverage was allowed in RO district, defined as the area underneath the solar panels and not counting the open space between rows of solar panels (typically >15 feet of vegetated land).
 - The revised ordinance made two main changes: (1) raised allowed land coverage from 10% to 40% for commercial solar arrays and to 50% for community solar arrays; and (2) redefined land coverage as the

perimeter of the solar array, including the open space between the rows of panels.

- Acreage cap
 - Previous drafts of the solar ordinance set a 25 acre cap on the size of solar arrays.
 - The most recent recommendation from Planning is to raise the cap to 50 acres (as suggested by EEAC).

Rich motions EEAC accepts revision to solar ordinance recommending cap be increased from 25 acres to 50 acres and endorse and sign on to the “August 8, 2019 Supplemental Report to the Mayor and City Council, from Beth Fenstermacher, Assistant City Planner & the Energy and Environment Advisory Committee.” Chuck seconds. Motion passes 4-1.

III. Municipal Properties Initiative Update

- Solar RFP status and timeline
 - May be released Friday.
 - Final responses due back October 3rd.
- Net metering veto override update
 - Could be valuable to have media, Concord Monitor, aware of the impact that HB365 would have on enabling Concord to fully utilize self-generation from solar to offset energy cost and usage.

IV. Strategic Plan

- Submission to City Council
- Next Steps/Process
- Potential Future Actions by EEAC in collaboration with City Administration
- Rob will acknowledge that the Plan has been submitted at the next City Council meeting. The Plan submission will be on the consent agenda.
- Last comprehensive audit completed in 2009. Many actions have been implemented from that audit (see table of Concord energy projects in 100% RE Strategic Plan, EE Chapter). Low-hanging fruit have been picked. Next comes system projects, HVAC, heating, cooling, deeper energy efficiency measures.
 - Question: Are these kinds of projects in the Capital Budget?

V. State Legislative Update

- Municipal Aggregation – Signed into law.
 - Process:
 - Town decides to do municipal aggregation at Town Meeting by forming committee
 - City can decide to do municipal aggregation at City Council by forming committee

- May require rule making through state agencies, e.g., Public Utilities Commission
 - City of Lebanon likely to lead on municipal aggregation.
 - EEAC to conduct further research on municipal aggregation
- Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)
- Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) – vetoed by the Governor

VI. Future Initiatives

- Brainstorming session/open discussion
 - Solarize campaign
 - Plastic bags/Styrofoam cups
 - Weatherize campaigns
 - Local food sourcing
 - Net zero CO2 emissions
 - Low income energy efficiency & solar
 - Composting
 - Institutional outreach – renewable energy, efficiency
 - Water conservation/community garden wells
 - Reach out to other local energy committees (e.g., Canterbury, Loudon)
 - Interest in partnering on weatherize campaigns, etc?
 - Municipal aggregation
 - City – EV charging
 - Committee should follow the VW grant process
 - Bike share
 - Develop estimate of Concord’s carbon footprint
 - Need committee website, online presence
 - Brainstorm list of skill sets that committee needs (recruitment)
 - Sectors
 - Residents
 - Commercial & Industrial (C&I)
 - Institutions (e.g., schools, hospital, municipal)
 - Low income
 - Rental

VII. New Business

- Kelsey will send strategic plan to stakeholder committee.

Henry motions to adjourn. Linda seconds. Unanimously approved.