

**CITY OF CONCORD  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019**

The Concord Energy and Environment Advisory Committee met at 7:00 p.m., on November 6, 2019, in the Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall, 41 Green Street.

Attendees: Henry Herndon, Chuck Willing, Rich Maher, Jennifer Galbraith, Jerry Eaton, Councilor Linda Kenison, Councilor Rob Werner

Absent:

Staff: Sam Durfee (Planning)

Guest(s): Donna Reardon, Lord Maitreya (UNH Law School), Dot Currier, Jessica Forrest, Zib Corell (Sustainable Tree Committee), Ted Diers (Sustainable Tree Committee), Brian Buckley, Cathy Kilday, Carl Cooley (EEAC appointment pending), Matthew Thorne (EEAC appointment pending), Kelsey Sullivan (EEAC appointment pending), Dot Currier (EEAC appointment pending)

*Chuck calls meeting to order at 7:00.*

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Solar Ordinance Update
  - Ordinance on table at City Council to be voted on Monday night;
  - Coming up on agenda for next City Council meeting; may be amendments considered alongside the original ordinance; amendments may prove more expansive than the current language in the draft ordinance.
  - Staff and officials have had several meetings about the ordinance; conservation commission was invited to meetings but did not participate (may have been mix-up with outreach/communication)
- III. Municipal Properties Initiative Update
  - RFP response
    - City has received 4 response
  - Selection timeline
    - City may or may not make a selection by Friday
- IV. Municipal Aggregation Policy Implementation
  - City Staff meeting – timing TBD
    - Staff has had a couple of meetings looking at strategic plan for 100% RE; could be role of EEAC to put itself forward as the “committee” referred to in the statute that would take lead on drafting the “aggregation plan” / “Community Power Plan” in partnership with the City.

## V. Tree Committee

- a. Sustainable Tree Committee Goal = ‘in-reach’ into other committees and boards within the City to introduce the committee and its members and connect with other committees
- b. Concord is losing trees at a phenomenal rate. Causes:
  - i. Suffering from effects of age, trees are aging out;
  - ii. Neglect is another challenge – trees are not being replaced in-kind;
  - iii. Climate change effects are being seen, new diseases, pests, warming climate, etc.
- c. Concord has a ‘sustainable tree program’ for homeowners, a cost share – you buy the tree, General Services plants it;
- d. Sustainable Tree Committee working on a tree inventory
- e. Average lifespan of urban tree = 20 years; we need a sustained, regular effort to maintain trees; not a boom-and-bust planting cycle every 20 years.
- f. Trees have an impact on City energy; more trees = more shade = less need for cooling.
- g. How can we think about how energy and trees interrelate? What are areas of collaboration between EEAC and Sustainable Tree Committee? Important questions.
- h. Which trees will we plant? Native may not always survive – may be necessary to plant Virginia species to plan for the world 30 years from now.

*Side-note: If anyone is interested in commenting on the I93 expansion project (which may not come to fruition for some time, but is in planning process) they may seek to comment through TPAC (Transportation and Pedestrian Advisory Committee)*

## VI. Electric Vehicle Charging

- EEAC role
  - Public outreach and education; potentially opportunities to work with business/property owners (e.g., Foxfire Properties / Steve Duprey?); facilitating.
- Private Development in Concord
  - May be opportunities off I93 Exit 17 where new developments, include a Market Basket, are going in.
  - New development proposed on Manchester Street could also be an opportunity
  - Storrs Street Garage could be another good opportunity
  - Storrs Street Market Basket complex also experiencing redevelopment; potential opportunities for EV charges.
- To put in a charging station, you need a building permit and an electrical permit

- Granite State Clean Cities Coalition and Drive Electric NH are two excellent educational resources on EVs and EV Charging Infrastructure.

## VII. EEAC priorities (2019-2020)

- Ranking of Initiatives by priority
  - RE: Table of Recommended Action Steps from Draft 100% Renewable Energy Strategic Plan
    - Sam will send around a redlined version which suggests which actions will be carried out by EEAC, City Staff, and/or City Councilors
    - Low- and Moderate-income energy efficiency projects could be another priority
    - Working with School District responsibility of EEAC (in the future)
  - Sam met with Resilient Buildings Group, energy auditing and consulting experts sub-contracted by Liberty Utilities / NHSaves; NHSaves will fund benchmarking for City buildings; Level II Audit at 50/50 match and implementation at 50/50 match; lots of potential to partner with NHSaves programs moving forward.
  - Community Power
    - EEAC should seek to become “aggregation committee” / “Community Power Committee” and draft aggregation plan
    - EEAC can educate City Staff, City Council, and public on opportunity of Community Power
  - Clean Energy NH webinar on Community Power recorded on <https://www.nhenergy.org/webinars.html>
  - Food sourcing
    - Food is an accessible way to engage low-income communities in a positive manner, e.g., through a harvest festival of locally sourced food;
- Next Meeting: EEAC will make decisions about prioritizing issues and focusing efforts on a few specific projects.

## VIII. Other Business

- a. Seeking to recruit other EEAC members, potentially a thermal energy expert (Chase Pennoyer, Resilient Buildings Group?)
- b. Rob and Chuck visited NHTI class focused on climate change science and politics to talk about EEAC and City of Concord work on energy and climate.
- c. Recruit a website person.

*Jerry motions to adjourn. Henry seconds. Unanimously approved.*