

CITY OF CONCORD
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 7, 2020

The Concord Energy and Environment Advisory Committee met virtually via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on December 7, 2020.

Attendees: City Councilor Rob Werner, Carl Cooley, Chuck Willing, Dot Currier, Jessica Forrest, Henry Herndon, City Councilor Meredith Hatfield, Jennifer Galbraith, Kelsey Sullivan, Nick Babladelis,

Absent: Matthew Thorne, Jerry Eaton

Staff: Sam Durfee (City Planning)

Guest(s): None

I. Welcome and Introductions

7:04 – Rob Werner opens meeting. Reads remote access information.

7:06 - Rob moves to accept November EEAC minutes.

Meredith proposes two corrections:

- *The word “lobby” was not used in last meeting – should be “advocate” instead.*
- *Meredith comment in regard to composting not being cost-effective was referring only to residential-level composting services, not home composting in general.*

Minutes accepted as so amended. Unanimously approved.

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Municipal Properties Update

- Rob has no additional update at this time
- Planning has not yet received site plan application, so exact timeline still unknown

III. Concord LED Streetlight Project

- Rob spoke with City Energy Consultant, Beth Greenblatt on how project will be rolled out to the public
- Want to make sure there is a lot of public education around this project
- Idea of testing out different types of bulbs using pilot demonstrations. Related to Kelvin rating. Putting lights of different strengths in different areas of the City.
- Project Cost: \$718,000. Unutil will pick up half through a grant. Other half paid by ratepayers via On Bill financing
- RFP will determine who the contractor will be and how they would do it

- Meredith: PUC issued a preliminary order that required Unitil to provide certain notices to ratepayers. Unitil did not send out notices in time. Filed a request to PUC to revise the Order.
- Meredith: could we use different bulbs with different Kelvin for different streets?
- Henry: some companies also include controls (dimming, etc) but that is an added cost
- Nick: understood that the City followed Dark Sky protocols. Those would require lights to be at 3,000 Kelvin or less. Biggest contributors to light pollution are bluer lights. Would be cautious about including lights in the pilot that do not meet Dark Sky standards.
- Carl: The difference between color temperature and brightness can be confusing, that should be part of the public education. Should be clear what is being tested in each pilot demonstration.
- Meredith: have any other NH communities done something similar?
- Jennifer: Discovery Center next to NHTI in Concord did a lot of research about the lighting that went in to their parking area. May be able to share pointers or research.
- Rob: maybe we should set up a sub-group to work on public education on this. Anyone interested?
 - Meredith
 - Rob
 - Nick
- Henry: we can also use Weatherize Campaign materials to bring attention to street lighting project
- *Nick sends EEAC members an email containing educational material on the Dark Skies protocol*
- Meredith: Nick, could you share information on the lighting systems at St. Paul's School?
 - Nick: SPS does have some lighting that would meet Dark Skies standards. EEAC members could visit and observe certain parking lot spaces. There is also a public street lamp that was installed by Unitil.

Rob leaves meeting. Confirms that there will be two meetings in January (1st Thursday and last Wednesday), and a meeting on the last Wednesday of the month thereafter

IV. Weatherize Concord 2021

- Report of Subcommittee (11/20/20 meeting)
- Henry, Dot, Jennifer, and Carl met with Sarah Brock of Vital Communities
- Three big buckets of tasks related to Weatherize campaign. Henry screen-shares Action Plan Draft.
 - Content Development Team
 - Content Dissemination Team
 - Utility & Contractor Relations Team

- Potential kick-off date in early February (Zoom event)
 - May be good to have a video presentation of a home audit. There may be existing content, or a Concord resident could volunteer to have home audit filmed.
 - Sarah Brock shared Weatherize Resources
- EEAC may need additional volunteers to help with campaign – Meredith to post on EEAC Facebook page.
- Possible needed expertise:
 - graphic designer (for promotional material)
 - Meredith: recently met president of NHTI. Could circle back and see if any students might be interested in volunteering with the Weatherize Campaign.
 - Jennifer: used to teach at NHTI. Can discuss with Meredith offline.
- Banners
 - City needs 30 days' notice for approval of banners. Fee is \$25/pole.
 - Sam: Gwen Williams in Code would be a good person to reach out to regarding banners, etc
- Next Steps:
 - Henry proposes a standing call for EEAC members to plan for Weatherize Campaign and Kick-Off Event. Members agree to standing Zoom call at noon on Fridays, every other week.
 - Nick to host Zoom meetings, because has Zoom account with break-out group capabilities.
 - Dot: content should come first. We will need to have content designed if we plan to publish in January
 - Meredith: EEAC members should think about which of the three areas they would like to work on, and think of any friends, neighbors, etc, who might be willing to volunteer.
 - Jennifer & Jerry may head up the utility outreach team. Jennifer to reach out to Jerry.
 - Jessica: we should have another meeting with Sarah Brock to go over promotional materials. Will need to have that meeting before any new content is developed.
 - Henry to reach out to Sarah to set up another meeting.

V. New Hampshire Legislative Session

- State Republicans submitted a letter to PUC requesting to freeze all energy efficiency spending.
- Henry: PUC will likely shrug it off. But there will likely be legislation introduced next session to freeze increases in energy efficiency funding.
- Meredith: Energy efficiency funding programs all pass stringent cost efficiency tests. Believes that letter may have an impact, but hopefully just a minimal decrease in planned level of spending.

- Public can submit comments to PUC via email. Meredith & others can ask around to see if there is a plan to solicit public comments.

VI. New Business

- Meredith points out that a roll call was not called to approve November minutes at the beginning of the meeting.
 - *Meredith moves to accept the November minutes, as amended. Carl seconds. Sam calls roll call of members. Unanimously approved.*

8:22 pm: Jerry moves to adjourn. Chuck seconds. Sam calls roll call of members. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourns.