

**Concord Energy and Environment Advisory Committee**  
**March 10, 2022**  
**6:00 PM**  
**City Council Chambers**

---

**Attendees:** Rob Werner (Chair), Councilor Stacey Brown, Councilor Byron Champlin, Nick Babladelis, Carl Cooley, Dot Currier, Jerry Eaton, Jessica Forrest, Jennifer Galbraith, Jonathan Weinberg, Chuck Willing

**Absent:** Jeff Evans (CEEAC), Henry Herndon (CEEAC), Sam Durfee (Staff)

**Guest:** Jenita Aquino-Patzan, Concord High School

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

*6:03 pm - Rob Werner opens the meeting*

Rob asks for comments on minutes.

- Chuck: noticed typo in Stacey's name.
- 6:06 pm –*Rob makes motion to accept minutes, with correction of typo, Jen seconds. Unanimously accepted.*

**II. Committee Membership**

- **Membership Status**
- **Chair position**

- Committee is now complete, 13 members. New members include Stacey Brown, Jonathan Weinberg, and Byron Champlin.
- Rob Werner officially back on the committee as community member, Rob to remain as chair.
- Rob suggests time in agenda each month for Stacey or Byron to talk about relevant City Council topics

**III. Municipal Projects Update**

- **Briar Hydro Net Metering**
- **LED Streetlights**
- **Public Events/Press Conference**
- **Potential Unutil Project**

- Briar Hydro agreement: Want to do some public event or announcement around the time of approval. Tom Aspell/Rob talking about it.
- Unutil wants to build solar installation in Concord, looking at spaces
  - What does the group think about having this installation driven by the utility?
  - Rob: would it solve our issue of getting renewable energy for people in the city

- Chuck: need more information on what the concept is? Impact on community power? People served would be carved out of the community power mix and presumably complementary.
  - Rob will try to find out more.
- West Portsmouth Street – Rob thinks interest remains by NextEra to build there, but no movement.

#### IV. Community Power

- **Fiscal Policy Advisory Committee (2/22/22)**

- Rob provided update. Henry made a presentation to FPAC already. Mayor thinks the city will join, but it's just been slow. Will ask Henry for an update at the next meeting

#### V. 2022 Policy Priorities/Planning

- **UNH Sustainability Fellow Update**

- Jessica provided update. Sam, Rob, Jessica, and Cameron Wake (Climate scientist at UNH) interviewed 3 potential fellows this week, and extended an offer to one, waiting to hear back. Search was nationwide.
- Fellowship project this summer will be to enter 2019 GHG Emissions Inventory data into ClearPath for running emissions and financial scenarios on different policy initiatives the city considers. The fellow will also include a basic accounting of Concord's natural carbon stocks found in our open space, such as forests, agriculture, and wetlands. This fellowship builds directly on the work that Amina Grant, 2020 UNH Sustainability fellow, did.
- Jenita and Grace Qiu from Concord high had volunteered to be trained to enter data into ClearPath- or train others to input data. May get NHS hours...

#### VI. 2022 State Legislative Priorities

- **Energy Efficiency Update**
- **Community Power**
- **Net Metering Expansion**

- Rob provided update. **Governor signed energy efficiency bill.** Asked what prospects do we have to resurrect Weatherize Concord. Could call the partners and see what we can do for Concord people.
- Jessica offered to call partners to see what if anything can be done. Had followed up earlier this year and they said they would be digging back through prior applicants but not able to address probably any new applicants this year. Agreed if we can at least have them address the 2021 deferred applicants, it would be great.
- **Net metering expansion bill** would allow businesses to install rooftop solar for net metering credit. School districts were addressed last year in a similar bill.
- Jonathan provided update on school district conversations. Concord school district aiming for a net positive school for new middle school (generating and providing energy to other schools. Rundlett is very inefficient.

- Also school district looking at electric bus potential
- Jenita doing work with the Concord tree committee to plant trees at the high school.
- Stacey: Want the new middle school to be done by 2025 (maybe 2024). Applying for building aid. Preliminary analysis on sites. Pandemic/supply chain prices and availability an issue
- Dot: heard oyster river is a model for engaging/teaching students on climate change, renewable energy
- Jenita: thinks students at high school would love to learn more.

After budget season hoping for a

#### VII. Community Gardens Water Access

- **Status and Next Steps**

- Jerry has been working on water access for **Clinton Street Community Gardens**. No answers yet from the state. Need to set up meeting with city to see if they want to move forward with this. Jerry and Rob need to talk with Tom Aspell about the next steps.
- Byron asked about possibility for installing a pipe linked to city water. Jerry thinks it would be less expensive to have a solar powered well as opposed to a pipe out there from the street.
- Stacey: Thinks a 501c3 called Shea Farm Growers (Brad) may be working on a water source at Clinton Street so need to confirm what their plan is.
- Stacey: Another community garden that may be built in Concord is on **Gully Hill Road** on Merrimack river bank – great location, 8 acres. Don't need to have pipes there due to proximity to river. Organization for Refugee and Immigrant Success (ORIS) would manage it. Asked if someone from this committee wants to participate in Gully Hill Road Committee next week? Next Tuesday at 5:30 pm – City Council Chambers

#### VIII. New Business

- **Infrastructure Funds**
- **Electric School Buses**
- **Market Days (June, 2022)**

Rob asked if the CEEAC wants to do something for Market Days?

- Discussion by group:
- Not enough participation last year
- Don't have anything new to offer
- A lot of work, and there is a booth cost associated.
- Not sure our audience is at Market Days
- Jonathan: not selling something but about visibility. Idea of all trash from market days on one day (future year maybe)
- If school district is going to be there, by June perhaps we can collaborate with some information rather than having our own booth. Committee members tended to agree with this approach.
- Stacey – should we craft a tree policy – such as any tree cut – person is required to plant 2?

- Jessica: not unprecedented to have municipal tree ordinance and can provide Stacey with some examples for Maryland to bring to the tree committee.
- Chuck wants to revive CEEAC facebook page and begin posting more regularly, after every meeting if possible
- Volunteered to serve as central manager of page.
- Initial ideas: Briar hydro, LED streetlights

Next meeting is Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6pm, City Council Chambers

*7:31 pm – Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote.*