

Concord Energy and Environment Advisory Committee  
Monthly May 25, 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, Jeffrey Evans, Jessica Forrest, Jennifer Galbraith, Sam Durfee (Staff)

Absent: Henry Herndon (CEEAC), Jonathan Weinberg (CEEAC)

Guest: Jenita Aquino-Patzan, Grace Qiu Concord High School

#### I. Welcome and Introductions

6:01 pm - Rob Werner opened the meeting

Rob asks for comments on minutes. Nick made a motion, seconded by Carl Cooley, to accept the minutes of the April 27, 2022 meeting. *Approved unanimously.*

#### II. Municipal Projects Update

Briar Hydro Net Metering – The Dept. of Energy has approved the agreement and net metering is to begin on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Street Lighting Conversion – The conversion is complete; however, some lights need to be fixed before the project is complete. The City's Public Information Officer is working on a press release.

Potential Unutilized Solar Project – Initial conversations on the concept of a solar array on the landfill or at the waste water treatment facility have taken place, but no agreements have been drafted or site plan applications submitted.

#### III. City of Concord Sustainability Position

Rob shared that he, Jessica, and Sam met with City Manager Tom Aspell to discuss the value of a Sustainability Position. Tom seemed open to the idea and had looked over the job description Jessica and Nick drafted. He asked Jessica and Nick to come up with a comparative salary estimate, but explained, that there are several other new position asks in the budget this year. Jessica and Nick shared that the proposed salary is to be \$104k plus benefits.

#### IV. Community Power

A presentation was made in December before the Fiscal Policy Advisory Committee (FPAC) on whether Concord should join the community power coalition with other municipalities. No action or recommendation has emerged from FPAC. The topic has not yet been taken up by FPAC again, but Rob expects some the budget process concludes, FPAC will discuss Community Power and he reported that there was some interest from the mayor and Council.

## V. 2022 Policy Priorities/Planning

Sam provided an update to the committee on the UNH Sustainability Fellowship, stating that the work plan has been submitted to and approved by UNH. The focus will be scenario modeling using ICLEI's ClearPath tool, quantifying the City's land-based carbon stocks, and exploring nature-based climate solutions. Sam thanked Grace and Jenita for their assistance in finishing up the data entry from the 2019 GHG inventory.

## VI. Weatherization Concord Update

Projects that were previously on the waiting list are now being completed following the issuance of funding for the NH Saves program. Councilor Brown stated that her house has received some work as a result of this program.

## VII. Concord School District

The committee discussed the various pros and cons of building a new middle school at the Clinton/Langley intersection. There were concerns about traffic, safe access to the school for students walking or biking, and impacts to nearby habitat. Rob shared that he has heard that if the school is to be heated geothermically, water recycling will be an important part of the heat transfer process. Some of this water could be directed to the community gardens on Birch Street and this has been part of the conversations. The committee would still like to work on getting water to the gardens in the meantime before the school is built.

## VIII. EV Infrastructure Update

The Nature Conservancy is taking a lead in helping the State to understand how to administer \$17 million in federal funds coming to the State for electric infrastructure. Conversations are underway with the Concord School District for decommissioning old diesel bus and bringing on new EV buses.

Upon motion made by Jerry Eaton, seconded by Nick Babladelis, it was *VOTED unanimously* to adjourn at 7:36 PM.