

Concord Energy and Environmental Advisory Committee

Minutes of Monthly Meeting September 28, 2022

Concord City Council Chambers

Present: Councilor Stacey Brown, Councilor Byron Champlain, Johnathan Weinberg, Dorothy Currier, Jeffrey Evans, Jennifer Galbraith, Nick Babladeis, Carl Cooley, Chairman Rob Werner, Gerald Eaton

City Planner Heather Swank

Grace Ciu and Frances Lesser – Concord High School

Jean Hakuzimana – Guest of Councilor Brown

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 PM.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Updated Emission Forecasts and Mitigation Scenarios – A discussion has held concerning the updated Emissions forecast completed by the CEEAC's Summer Fellow, Clara Feigelson. Most agreed the report is very useful; however, it strongly suggests that Concord must speed up its efforts or the City's goal for achieving 100% renewable electric energy for 2030 will not be met. We need to refocus and recommit. City transit may be closer to goal of renewable electric power. Jonathan Weinberg reported that the School District has applied for a grant of \$900,000 to purchase f three school busses powered by electricity. We Diesel-powered engines are found in many of the City's vehicles, and technology electric engines may be farther off than originally anticipated. The City's Policy Advisory Committee has yet to consider Concord's participation in The Community Power Coalition. Participation in the coalition by the City does not obligate it to participate in any power purchases or to adopt Community Power for the City or its residents. The NH PUC has adopted rules which have subsequently been accepted by the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules. Rob has sent communications to the Mayor and City Manager about moving this item along through FPAC. A working group was formed to prepare a presentation to City Council on October 12 of the Updated Emissions Forecasts and Scenarios.

July 12 Minutes – a Motion was made by Jerry Eaton, seconded by Jennifer Galbraith, to approve the Minutes of the July 12 meeting of the CEEAC. VOTED: Approved Unanimously.

Let There Be Light International – Councilor Brown introduced Mr. Jean Hakuzimana, Deputy Executive Director of This organization. Mr. Hakuzimana is a Concord resident. His organization works in Uganda, Malawi and Kenya to supply solar powered lights and equipment to remote areas where no electric infrastructure exists. The have electrified 69 rural health clinics

allowing these clinics to be open more hours to serve more patients. There has also been an increase in assisted births at these clinics. They have distributed 29,000 solar lights helping students to study among other advantages for residents who burn candles or oil lamps for residential lighting. They have improved the lives of more than one million people since their beginning in 2014.

Sustainability Projects – Representatives from LodeStar has been talking to community members about sustainable energy projects. NextEra appears to no longer be interested in the West Portsmouth Street/Brochu solar projects, but have not formally announced its abandonment of the project. Kelley?? Representing LodeStar has not spoken to the City or the School District about any projects such as the former City landfill.

Local Government for Sustainability is hoping to engage in community discussions concerning taking stock and engaging in local efforts to promote sustainability. These discussions will take place between the COP27 Conference and Earth Day 2023.

City Planner Heather Swank described the current process of Hazard Mitigation Action Planning. This plan is updated and reviewed every five years led by Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission. This plan is crucial as FEMA requires it and Government backed flood insurance depends upon a plan being in place and updated every five years. In several inquiries Region Planning has asked whether the CEEAC would be involved in exploring this or that subject.

100% of LED Street lights have been converted. Final presentation with a rebate check from Unifit Energy Systems will be forthcoming.

Weatherize Concord – Sam Evans Brown, of Clean Energy New Hampshire has noted that the utilities are back at reducing their back logs. Funding for the next round in 2023 should be enhanced as increased funding is based upon the CPI plus one half of one percent.

I-93 expansion plan. Chuck Willing has inquired of the Committee as to whether we want to have input in to the plan.

Upon Motion by Jerry Eaton, seconded by Byron Champlain, it was VOTED unanimously to adjourn.

