

Concord Energy and Environment Advisory Committee (CEEAC)
Wednesday, February 22, 2023
6:00 PM
City Council Chambers

Attendees: Rob Werner (chair), Councilor Stacey Brown, Dot Currier, Jeffrey Evans, Jennifer Galbraith, Chuck Willing, Grace Ciu (student representative), Frances Lesser (student representative), Jessica Forrest, Gerald Eaton, Heather Shank (City Planner), Alec Bass (Senior Planner)

Absent: Councilor Byron Champlin, Carl Cooley, Nick Babladelis, Jonathan Weinberg

Guests: Meredith Cooley, Board President of Concord Greenspace, Jenny Robson of Concord Greenspace, Jeff Davis of Prism Energy Services

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Rob Werner opened the meeting.

The CEEAC unanimously accepted minutes from the January 31, 2023 meeting.

II. Municipal Projects

Community Power

Consideration of the City joining the Community Power Coalition has been before the City Council's Fiscal Policy Advisory Committee (FPAC) for several months. This Committee had approached FPAC inquiring what the delay was about. City leaders related that the Council or FPAC was reluctant to join a coalition; however, they inquired whether the City could explore Community Power on its own and possibly join with other nearby towns and/or the County to purchase renewable energy. The City of Keene has embarked upon the process of establishing a Community Power Committee and has hired a consultant to assist the committee. This Committee has been asked to suggest individuals and organizations which could be approached to explore what would be necessary for Concord to establish a Community Power Committee. This Community Power Committee would explore the feasibility of aggregating all electric power customers, purchasing renewable energy supply for those customers and what steps need to be taken by the City to put such a plan into effect.

Solar Development

Rob Werner reported that the City is preparing an RFP to develop a solar power installation at the former City landfill on Old Turnpike Road. Recently enacted legislation allows up to a five-

megawatt facility that can be net metered. The City is also ready to apply for federal funds to install a small solar power facility to serve the wastewater treatment plant on Hall Street

A discussion took place regarding real estate tax exemption for photovoltaic installations. It seemed illogical that solar panels can be exempt from property tax while related components, such as charging apparatus and storage batteries, are not currently eligible for an exemption. In order to provide an incentive for installing solar power which can charge batteries for backup/night time power supply, the CEEAC considered the following:

Upon MOTION by Rob Werner, SECONDED by Councilor Brown it was unanimously VOTED to request the City Council to request its Tax Exemption Committee to conduct an analysis and policy considerations, including the financial implications, of tax-exempt status of energy charging and associated energy storage infrastructure.

III. Paris Agreement Local Stocktake Project

Meredith Cooley, Board President of Concord Greenspace, Jenny Robson of Concord Greenspace led a discussion of an upcoming public meeting to take stock of the City's progress in meeting the goals of the Board action vote to set sustainability/renewable energy goals. City department and School District representatives will be available at the meeting at the Heights Community Center on April 10 from 5:00 to 8:00 P.M. to participate and answer questions. Concord Greenspace urged community efforts to promote smart growth, equitable growth and global ????

VI. Next Meeting

The next CEEAC meeting is on Wednesday, March 22 at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chambers.

A motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.