

Concord Energy and Environment Advisory Committee

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers

MINUTES

Attendees: Chair, Rob Werner,) Councilor Stacey Brown, Councilor Byron Champlin, Dot Currier, Gerald Eaton, Jennifer Galbraith, Chuck Willing, Jessica Forrest, Grace Ciu (student representative), Frances Lesser (student representative), Alec Bass (Senior Planner)

Absent: Nick Babladelis, Carl Cooley, Jeffrey Evans, Jonathan Weinberg.

Guests: Jack Dunn, Concord School District Business Manager, Matt Cashman, Concord School District Facilities Manager

I. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting at 6:07 PM. The Draft Minutes of the April; 26, 2023 Meeting were reviewed. Upon MOTION by Councilor Champlin and seconded by Jerry Eaton, the minutes of the Meeting on April 26, 2023 were APPROVED unanimously.

II. Concord School District Sustainability Initiatives Update

Mr. Dunn and Mr. Cashman first explained projects that had already been completed. LED lighting has been installed in the elementary schools and the administrative offices. The high school lighting will be converted next. New efficient HVAC units will be installed at Broken Ground and Beaver Meadow schools. The District has worked with a consultant to assess the possibility of solar installations on the roofs of schools or in open spaces on District properties.

The District and their architects are beginning to design the new middle school although a location of the new school still awaits identification and approval of the School Board. All sustainability options will be explored, such as geothermal heating, and the initial goal is to design a building that will be net zero.

The district is preparing an application for a federal grant to purchase at least fifteen electric school busses. The District may collaborate with area towns and/or Merrimack Valley School District. The range of the busses will accommodate all routes within the City; however, diesel busses may be retained for class trips and athletic events at other schools. The cost of chargers will be included if the grant is awarded; however, there may need to be upgrades for the transformer serving the Maintenance Garage are where the busses are stored.

III. Concord Stocktake Review

The Stocktake event was held at the Community Center on Monday May 22, 2023. Thirty-five persons from the public attended. This meeting may have been the first stock take worldwide following Paris

Climate conference five years ago. There were many suggestions for further action including EV charging stations, solar power for homeowners with possible city financing paid back through tax bills.

Community Power Update – The City Council approved the membership in the Community Power Committee. Councilor Champlin, Chuck Willing and Rob Werner will represent the CEEAC on the Committee. The first meeting will be in June.

Solar Power at the Former Landfill - There were five respondents to the Requests for Proposals to locate solar power at the former municipal landfill.

Solarize Power Initiative – Jessica spoke with Boundless Energy. Their approach has the customer not owning the solar panels, and the customer has no up-front investment. The customer enters a power purchase agreement. A suggestion was made that we approach the Community Development Advisory Committee to see if a revolving loan fund could be created to help customers with the initial investment. The CEEAC will develop a one page proposed budget (\$4,000) for promotional activities and materials (a banner, web site) for the Solarize Concord campaign to present to the City and to approach the solar developers who will participate in the campaign for contributions.

Upon Motion by Councilor Champlin, seconded by Chuck Willing, it was unanimously VOTED to adjourn.