

Concord Energy and Environment Advisory Committee

Wednesday, August 23, 2023

6:00 PM

City Council Chambers

MINUTES - DRAFT

Attendees: Chair, Councilor Byron Champlin, Councilor Stacey Brown, Jessica Forrest, Carl Cooley, Dot Currier, Gerald Eaton, Jennifer Galbraith, Chuck Willing, Beth Fenstermacher (Director of Special Projects and Strategic Initiatives)

Absent: Rob Werner, Nick Babladelis, Jeffrey Evans, Jonathan Weinberg, Grace Ciu (student representative), Frances Lesser (student representative).

I. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair opened the meeting at 6:04 PM and declared a quorum was present. The Draft Minutes of the July 26, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Upon MOTION by Jessica Forest and seconded by Councilor Brown, the minutes of the Meeting on June 26, 2023 were APPROVED unanimously.

II. Municipal Projects

Community Power – Councilor Brown reported that the City Council had originally asked this Committee, the Concord Energy and Environment Advisory Committee (CEEAC), to explore the possibility and procedures necessary to have the City explore Community Power. Rob Werner, Chuck Willing and Councilor Champlin have organized a task force of interested individuals to assist them. This task force was not approved by the City Council as a standing city committee. Councilor Champlin explained that the CEEAC needs to create a subcommittee of CEEAC members to lead the effort to come up with a draft community power plan.

Upon MOTION made by Gerald Eaton which was seconded by Jennifer Galbraith, it was unanimously VOTED to create a subcommittee of the CEEAC consisting of Rob Werner, Councilor Byron Champlin and Chuck Willing to develop a draft Community Power Plan.

This subcommittee will use other members of the task force as voluntary consultants to assist in developing the Community Power Plan. Chuck Willing reported that a small group (including Rob and Chuck Willing) are reviewing various templates of community power that have previously been approved in municipalities that have moved forward with community power. Based upon review of these plans, a draft plan will be presented to the entire Committee in September. The subcommittee will present their draft plan to the CEEAC in September. A final draft plan, recommended by the CEEAC, will be submitted to the Council. There will be two community meetings on October 3 and November 14 where the public can learn more and ask questions. The City must notify the electric utilities that serve Concord. An approved plan must be sent to the PUC to ensure that the statutory requirements have been met. The CEEAC

discussed ways to inform the public and city councilors. The subcommittee is still looking for additional voluntary consultants from the environmental justice community and the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce. Councilor Champlin serves as a temporary representative as he is a member of the Chamber's Board of Directors.

Solar RFP for the City Landfill – Beth Fenstermacher reported that the F-final lease documents are being negotiated with Kearsarge Solar.

III. Policy and Project updates

Solarize Concord Initiative – Jessica reported that Beth Stevenson of Unitil Energy Systems is interested in partnering with this project. Professor Tracey Lesser of NHTI has students who must fulfill requirements for graduation which could include developing posters and fact sheets describing the details of Solarize Concord and Community Power. There was a discussion about whether to prioritize weatherization and installation of heat pumps before installing solar power on a residence. Further discussion was held concerning whether the CEEAC could simultaneously conduct a Solarize Concord campaign and assist in promoting understanding of Community Power, i.e., would there be confusing messages for the community?

Councilor Brown reported that a Tree Champion for Concord would be announced later this year.

Beth Fenstermacher reported that From August 2022 through July 2023, 173 residential permits have been issued by the City for the installation of solar power.

Upon Motion by Carl Cooley, seconded by Jennifer Galbraith, it was unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 6:50 PM.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 27th at 6:00PM.