

Concord Energy and Environment Advisory Committee  
Wednesday, December 13, 2023  
6:00 PM  
City Council Chambers  
MINUTES

Attendees: Rob Werner, Councilor Byron Champlin, Councilor Stacey Brown, Nick Babladelis, Dot Currier, Allen Desbiens, Jeffrey Evans, Chuck Willing, Beth Fenstermacher (Director of Projects and Strategic Initiatives)

Absent: Jennifer Galbraith, Carl Cooley, Gerald Eaton, Jonathan Weinberg, Frances Lesser (student representative)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Rob Werner opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

II. November 15, 2023 Minutes – on a motion by Councilor Champlin, second by Chuck Willing, it was unanimously voted to approve the November 15, 2023 minutes as written.

III. Community Power

Chuck Willing provided research on number of municipalities currently enrolled or pursuing community power – approximately half of the municipalities across the State. He looked at abutting towns, and both Pembroke and Boscawen are planning to go live through the Coalition in Spring 2024. Pembroke has cleared Town Meeting, Boscawen still needs to go through Town Meeting for approval.

Chuck provided his opinion that the attractive part of joining the Coalition is that it is easier to work together with surrounding towns, it'll be easier to do local projects that are a benefit to all (i.e. joint solar or storage in one town, used to benefit multiple towns). Council Champlin mentioned that he has governance concerns with the Coalition model – no guarantee on the seat of the Board, 24% quorum, established by legislation and in the future legislation can change at any time.

The Committee will host a worksession on January 11, 2024 at 6 pm to review the 2 models and discuss comments/concerns with the goal of voting a preferred option at their regular meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Based on the vote, if the Committee opts to move forward with a Community Power program, the report to Council will include which model, % renewable energy for base rate, and recommend that the City include the “opt-out” option.

Chuck mentioned that it would be a good idea to have additional meetings to ensure that we meet the statutory requirements. He mentioned that Keene had a total of 9 meetings. The Committee decided to schedule an additional Public Information session in late February (proposed for the 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm) at the Heights Community Center. Councilor Champlin recommended a meeting with the Penacook Village Association as well. Additional meetings will be scheduled if the Council votes to approve the Plan at their public hearing in March or April.

#### IV. Policy and Project updates

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

Rob Werner reported that we have been selected for a UNH sustainability fellow for the 2024 summer period. The successful college or graduate student would work on community engagement and outreach.

Councilor Brown reported that there is a NH Listens session on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Also, she will be meeting with an NHTI student about their capstone project, which will produce a poster and flyer about how trees can cool homes.

Rob Werner discussed that he thinks the Committee should start looking at the many new residential developments that are popping up across the City – think about how they are built, and what potential environmental impacts that pose. This will be a future discussion.

Upon MOTION by Council Champlin, seconded by Chuck Willing, it was unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 6:55 PM.

The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 6:00PM. A worksession will be held on Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 6 pm.