

Concord Energy and Environment Advisory Committee  
Wednesday, February 28, 2024  
6:00 PM  
City Council Chambers  
MINUTES

Attendees: Councilor Jeffrey Foote, Chuck Willing (Acting Chair), Carl Cooley, Nick Babladelis, Dot Currier, Gerald Eaton, Jennifer Galbraith, Elliot Clendenning and Frances Lesser (student representatives), Beth Fenstermacher (Director of Special Projects and Strategic Initiatives).

Guests: Emily Manns (Standard Power).

Absent: Councilor Stacey Brown, Rob Werner, Allen Desbiens, Jeffrey Evans

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chuck Willing, Chairperson *pro tem*, opened the meeting at 6:07 PM. Chuck welcomed Councilor Jeffrey Foote, newly appointed City Council member on this Committee. Jeff represents Ward 10. Committee members present introduced themselves.

The draft minutes of the January 24, 2024 monthly meeting were distributed. Jerry Eaton noted that Chuck Willing helped to edit the minutes to make sure the various motions regarding Community Power were worded correctly for City Council and NH PUC consideration later. A motion was made by Nick Babladelis, seconded by Carl Cooley to accept the Minutes of January 24, 2024. It was VOTED unanimously to accept those minutes

II. Community Power Discussion

Chuck Willing distributed copies of a draft Community Power Plan for Concord. Once all approvals are in place, the Concord Community Power Program will launch but only if the rate offered by the Coalition is cheaper than the default service rate offered by the utilities. There was a lively discussion concerning how to handle the thirty-nine Eversource customers who live off of Hoit Road and Shaker Road. They represent 0.3% of all electric customers with Unitil serving the other 99.7%. What if the Coalition's rate beats Unitil's default service rate but not Eversource's rate? In that unlikely event, we will reach out to those Eversource customers to explain the problem and offer them the opportunity to opt out. Chuck answered more questions about the plan and details about the Coalition's terms, including the possibility to move to a broker supplied power even if Concord has joined the Coalition. Chuck supplied a potential sequence of events, assuming City Council approval, allowing the program to launch in mid Fall.

Chuck will take comments on the draft plan and prepare a final draft for consideration by the CEEAC at our March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, assuming the Council approves the program at its March 11, meeting. The plan will then be submitted to the NH PUC before coming back to the Council.

III. Policy and Project updates

Solar RFP for the City Landfill – Beth Fenstermacher reported that the lease is in its final stages as is an agreement on payment in lieu of taxes. Group net metering details are being worked out as is the interconnection agreement with Unitil. The power supply agreement with Briar Hydro will need to be adjusted because the City will take less output from Briar Hydro once the landfill project is operational. The School District may take some Briar Hydro power as well as neighboring towns, as restrictions on Briar only selling to customers within Concord have been relaxed. The developer, Kearsage Energy, may go to the Planning Board for approval in May.

Lodestar is developing plans for a solar project off of West Portsmouth Street. This is a private developer so there is no opportunity for collaboration with the CEEAC. A small 125 kilowatt solar generator will be installed behind the meter at the waste water treatment plant on Hall Street. The funds for this project came from a grant, and construction is expected to begin in June.

Beth reported that she and Rob have interviewed one of three candidates for the summer fellowship position through UNH. The successful college or graduate student would work on community engagement and outreach, focusing on Community Power should the City Council vote to move forward.

Upon MOTION by Jerry Eaton, seconded by Nick Babladelis, it was unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 7:45 PM.

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