

Concord Energy and Environment Advisory Committee
September 25, 2024
6:30 PM
City Council Chambers
MINUTES

Attendees: Councilor Stacey Brown, Acting Chair, Nick Babladelis, Dot Currier, Gerald Eaton, Miriah King, Chuck Willing, Beth Fenstermacher (Director, Special Projects and Strategic Initiatives), Elliot Clendening and Frances Lesser (student representatives).

Absent: Rob Werner, Councilor Jeffrey Foote, Carl Cooley, Allen Desbiens, Jeffrey Evans

I. Welcome and Introductions

Councilor Brown, Acting Chairperson, opened the meeting at 6:34 PM

Miriah King introduced herself to the Committee following her appointment by the City Council. The draft minutes of the August 28, 2024 monthly meeting were previously distributed. A few corrections were offered. A motion was made by Chuck Willing, seconded by Dot Currier, to accept the minutes of the August 28, 2024 meeting. It was VOTED unanimously to accept those minutes as amended.

II. Municipal Project updates

Solar RFP for the City Landfill – Beth Fenstermacher reported that the City and Kearsarge Power will be meeting with Unitil on September 26th. Unitil is in the process of easement relocation and coordination for moving the lines that cross the site. Commencement of construction on the project is anticipated to be in April 2025.

The Lodestar facility proposed for West Portsmouth Street is awaiting its permit from the Department of Environmental Services. Beth was not aware when construction may commence.

Construction has begun on the 125-kilowatt solar generator at the Waste Water Treatment facility on Hall Street.

III. Community Power – Education and Public Outreach Discussion

Chuck Willing began the discussion of developments for a launch in Concord in October 2024. Public information sessions were held on September 4 and September 17. The presentations were made by representatives of the Community Power Coalition.

Concord CATV recorded the session on September 17th. Most felt the questions from the public were adequately addressed.

The Committee manned an informational table at the Multicultural Festival. Rob Werner's Op Ed piece appeared in *The Concord Monitor* in mid-September. Program notification letters have been sent to all Concord customers. The street banner is up on Loudon Road. We have placed lawn signs, placards, smaller banners and other collaterals.

Nick Babladelis reported that he is a member of the sustainability advisory panel to the middle school construction project. He also held public informational sessions at St. Paul's School and South Congregational Church.

Chuck Willing reported on news from the Community Power Coalition. Sullivan County is joining the Coalition as a member, the third county to do so. The Coalition has begun a strategic planning process with two virtual meetings scheduled. The Coalition is holding a membership meeting on Friday, October 25 in Sanbornton, NH. All committee members, city councilors, city staff and interested persons are invited to attend. The Coalition has hired Jackson Kaspari as a Community Energy Advisor. He will help local communities to optimize energy efficiency and to implement the community's energy action plan. The Coalition is using the video created by Beth Fenstermacher on how to access the Concord Community Power portal to opt out of the standard rate or opt up or down to different rate options. He said the video was so good, the Coalition placed it on their website for customers in other communities to follow.

IV. Miscellaneous/ New Business

LEAN Energy (a national community power organization to which the Coalition belongs) is holding a conference in Washington D.C. on October 8 and 9 on the topic of Community Power. Chuck will attend the conference and report back at our next committee meeting.

Miriah King reminded the Committee that the Capital Area Energy Expo (Bow, Concord, Dunbarton, Pembroke and Weare) will be held October 26 at the Bow Central School from 9:00 to 2:00. She asked if the Committee had any materials to distribute and could we contribute a door prize

Ms. Fenstermacher announced that the Merrimack River Greenway will be having a ribbon cutting ceremony on September 27 at 5:00 PM.

Upon MOTION by Chuck Willing and seconded by Nick Babladelis, it was unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 7:45 PM.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 23 at **6:30** PM.