

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

Attendees: Rob Werner, Chair, Councilor Stacey Brown, Councilor Jeffrey Foote, Nick Babladelis, Carl Cooley, Dot Currier, Allen Desbiens, Gerald Eaton, Jeffrey Evans, Miriah King, Chuck Willing, Beth Fenstermacher (Director, Projects and Strategic Initiatives), Elliot Clendening and Frances Lesser (student representatives).

Absent: NONE!

I. Welcome and Introductions

Rob Werner, Chairperson, opened the meeting at 6:33 PM

The minutes of the September 25, 2024 meeting were distributed. Upon MOTION by Chuck Willing, seconded by Councilor Brown, it was unanimously VOTED to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2024 meeting

II. Municipal Project updates

Solar RFP for the City Landfill – Beth Fenstermacher reported that permit documents are being finalized. A group net metering agreement needs to be executed involving all the entities that will be credited with the output from the Kearsarge landfill solar facility.

The Lodestar facility proposed for West Portsmouth Street is awaiting its permit from the Department of Environmental Services. Construction may not commence until Spring 2025.

The 84-kilowatt solar generator at the Waste Water Treatment facility on Hall Street will go live in November.

III. Community Power – Education and Public Outreach Discussion

Chuck Willing distributed a one-page report outlining the launch of Concord Community Power, developments involving the Community Power Coalition and a discussion of the LEAN Energy Conference he attended in Washington. D. C.

Beth reported that the only launch ‘hitch’ that she was aware of is that five small City accounts at Memorial Field were erroneously enrolled with Concord Community Power, but it was quickly resolved. The Committee discussed outreach efforts to date.

Chuck reported that Bedford is one of the latest communities that has joined the Coalition. The Coalition has been obtaining Renewable Energy Certificates from the broader, nation-wide market. The Coalition will soon be issuing an RFP to obtain local, New Hampshire and New England based RECs to stimulate the market.

The Coalition has hired Jackson Kaspari as its Community Energy Advisor. He will work with individual communities in developing the launch of their community power programs and advise with special projects after the launch of community power.

#### IV. Miscellaneous/ New Business

Chuck Willing attended the Local Energy Action Network conference in Washington D.C. on October 8 and 9 on the topic of Community Power. They discussed common challenges for dealing with local utilities. There was an opportunity to meet with DOE and FERC representatives. The Network allows data on community power efforts to be collected and shared across many states.

Rob reported on a meeting with the German Consulate General and Beth, Chuck, Stacy and Henry Herndon from CPCNH. The Consulate General was meeting with all New England states to discuss clean energy. Topics included economic development and trade missions. Germany has decommissioned many of its nuclear power plants and is moving to renewable energy. The Ukraine war has spiked energy prices as deliveries of Russian natural gas have been curtailed.

Councilor Foote discussed the Natural Resource Recovery Association and their curriculum about recycling that has been implemented in Bedford.

Rob discussed scheduling a half day planning session for early January. In that discussion we could plan our approach to weatherization/solar campaign for the summer of 2025. A date for that planning session was tentatively set for January 11 and will be finalized at our December 11 meeting.

There will be a Clean Energy NH Local Energy Solutions conference on November 1. Additional information from Dept. of Environmental Services regarding the use of federal funds for heat pumps should be coming out soon.

Upon MOTION by Councilor Brown and seconded by Dot Carrier, it was unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 7:45 PM.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 11 at **6:30** PM.