



TOWN OF STRATHAM

INCORPORATED 1716

10 BUNKER HILL AVENUE STRATHAM NH 03885

VOICE (603) 772-4741 FAX (603) 775-0517

MINUTES FOR STRATHAM ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING Jan 11, 2022

Meeting held at the Stratham Municipal Center

Commission Members:

- Michael Ream
- Matthew O'Keefe
- Charlie Case
- Michael Welty
- Joe VanGombos

Not Present: Michael Ream

Joe VanGombos (in quarantine and provided his inputs for discussion)

Also attending: Joe Lovejoy Member Town Select Board

Call to Order: 6:10 PM

1.Minutes from December 14, 2021 were approved with updates

2.Community Power – The Energy Commission plans to examine options carefully before recommending that the Town pursue Community Power. We expect this process will take six months. This initiative seems even more important now given a recent large electricity supply cost increase, reported to be caused by a worldwide shortage of natural gas.

The Energy Commission will improve communication with residents through the Select Board newsletter, the Energy Commission web site, articles in the Portsmouth Herald and a survey. Previous successes will be highlighted as well, including cost savings from the RPC Electricity Aggregation Program, the Police Station Solar installation (generated 146 MW-hours so far), and the LED Street Light conversion program. The success of the RPC Electricity Aggregation Program was highlighted in a recent Select Board newsletter. It was suggested we add links on the Energy Commission web page for meetings, agendas, minutes, and successes as well as other useful information.

An initial survey will be conducted to get inputs from residents and find out potential interest in Stratham Community Power. At our February meeting, we plan to discuss



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about four survey questions that could be included. It is believed many residents want a combination of green renewable energy and lower electricity supply cost.

The Commission first met with Henry Herndon (representing the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire) at our November meeting where he explained the potential benefits of joining a Community Power aggregation coalition. As a next step, the Commission will invite Ryan Polson of Standard Power of America to meet with us at our February meeting. Standard Power of America also offers a Community Power aggregation coalition program.

3. Town Utility Cost/Usage Report – It is recommended that the Town finance person keep this database up to date. Electricity usage data from Unitil is available now; oil and propane still needs to be collected. The Town could continue utilizing Paul Deschaine's spreadsheet.

We are four years behind with the EPA Portfolio Manager Usage/Cost Data for municipal buildings. Joe VanGombos has put together all of the electric usage/cost data for the past four years and is now figuring out how to do a bulk upload into the Town system.

4.2022 Goals –

- A. Community Power
- B. Provide information to Stratham residents on Energy Commission activities

5. Energy Commission Annual Report – Matt agreed to draft our Annual Report

Adjourned 6:45 PM

Next meeting will be February 8, 2022

Respectfully submitted – Charlie Case