



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 Nov 14, 2023

Meeting held at the Stratham Municipal Center

Commission Members:

- Matthew O'Keefe
- Charlie Case
- Michael Welty
- Joe VanGombos
- Joe Anderson - Select Board Member
- Paul Deschaine (did not attend)
-

Also attending: Brent Scott – Rec Committee Member

Call to Order: 6:00 PM

October 10, 2023 minutes approved

Brent Scott: is interested in helping the Town become carbon neutral. He suggested the Energy Commission could start looking at other places for solar beyond the Police Station. Mike commented that the SEC has already looked at other possibilities in the past including the Fire Station roof, the Municipal Center roof, the salt shed roof, also ground mount systems at Stevens Park, the Transfer Station and an open space behind the Municipal Building. The SEC has not yet looked at possibilities at Stratham Hill Park. Open areas with Conservation Easements and common land owned by homeowner's associations have also been looked at. There are Town regulation now on solar installations. SEC member Joe Vangombos is part of a group organized by the Town Planner to address current solar regulations. Clean Energy New Hampshire has developed a template which Joe will bring to the group. The SEC will look at other possibilities to locate additional solar installations in the Town.

Stratham Memorial School Improvements: There is a committee looking at an initiative to upgrade the existing Stratham Memorial School (opened in 1989) aiming to define specific needs to upgrade the building to current standards - and ask voters for approval in 2025. The SEC did an energy audit of the building years ago and is interested in providing inputs to the Committee. The new Oyster River Middle School opened for the 2023/2024 school year and is a net zero example that should be looked at for ideas. Also NH Saves and Federal incentive programs could help.

Stratham Community Power Next Steps: A public information session for residents is required as part of the Stratham Community Power startup process and it will be held on



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January 30th from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the Municipal Center Conference Room A. The initial Stratham Community Power rate will be set in late December following Unitil's winter default rate announcement. We will need to do more resident outreach as the date for Stratham Community Power startup gets closer, happening during March 2024. The Portsmouth Herald ran a front page article on Community Power in their Monday November 13 issue and would likely to be willing to run another article in January. The Stroll Magazine is sent to all households in Stratham with an article submission date of mid December to be included in the early February 2024 issue. Joe Anderon will do a draft article before our next meeting.

The Town has received a solicitation from Affinity lighting to upgrade our buildings to LEDs.

Adjourned 7:15 PM

Respectfully submitted - Charlie Case