



# TOWN OF STRATHAM

INCORPORATED 1716

10 BUNKER HILL AVENUE STRATHAM NH 03885

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

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## MINUTES FOR STRATHAM ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING Apr 12, 2022

**Meeting held at the Stratham Municipal Center**

### **Commission Members:**

- Michael Ream
- Matthew O'Keefe
- Charlie Case
- Michael Welty
- Joe VanGombos
- **Joe Anderson - Select Board Member**

**Not Present: Michael Ream  
Michael Welty**

**Others attending:** Henry Herndon – Freedom Energy Logistics via Video Conference  
Jack Martell – Freedom Energy Logistics via Video Conference

**Call to Order: 6:00 PM**

**Commission Chair Mike Welty will be absent from meetings for approximately six months. Matt O'Keefe will act as Chair until Mike returns.**

**Joe Anderson is a new member of the Stratham Town Select Board and will be the Select Board representative to the Energy Commission. Joe explained that he served in West Newbury MA Town Government for 18 years (including two terms on the Select Board) before moving to Stratham in March 2020.**

**1.Minutes from January 11, 2022 and February 8, 2022 were approved**

**2.Discussion of Community Power – The NH Public Utilities Commission continues to turn down applications for Community Power pending completion of their Community Power regulations. The Energy Commission will carefully assess all options as PUC regulations and details for potential Aggregator companies get worked out. So far, we have met with the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH) and Standard Power.**

**3.Video Conference Call with Freedom Energy Logistics to discuss Group Net Metering opportunity for Stratham to “off take” New Hampshire Hydro Electricity Supply.**



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Henry Herndon and Jack Martell from Freedom Energy Logistics joined the meeting via video conference. Freedom Energy is organizing a Group Net Metering option with qualified New Hampshire Hydro Generation Companies and Municipalities to help Hydro sell power at a retail rate vs wholesale. This option will enable the Hydro Companies to stay in business and provide renewable energy for New Hampshire. HB 315 identifies Towns, Counties, and Schools as eligible to Group Net Meter and share in the revenue stream for participating. If Stratham participates, we would see an annual revenue of approximately \$5,000 based upon the Town's power usage. All of the Town's electricity usage would be included except for the Police Station which is already Net Metering the Solar Power generated on the roof of the building. The University of New Hampshire has worked with Freedom Energy Logistics in the past and has benefitted.

The Energy Commission agreed that this opportunity was worth pursuing and reviewed a proposed contract from Freedom Energy. Joe VanGombos will draft an "out clause" of 90 days which will be added to the contract. We plan to brief the Select Board at a future meeting and ask for their approval to proceed. Freedom Energy expects the process to gain approvals for the Hydro Net Metering project will take about a month.

**4. Media/Public Outreach** – The Energy Commission will improve outreach to the Select Board and Town residents. The BOS newsletter already highlighted cost savings from the Rockingham Planning Commission Electricity Aggregation Program.

We reviewed Energy Commission accomplishments with Joe Anderson – including an energy usage study for all municipal buildings, ways to reduce power consumption, examination of possible locations for Solar Power installations, installation of Solar Power on the roof of the Police Station, cost savings from the RPC Electricity Aggregation Program, and the LED Street Light Conversion Program.

Additional informational topics for the BOS newsletter are the Police Station Solar Power generation results, and how residents can sign up for a third party electricity supplier to at a lower cost than the Standard Offer that Unitil is able to negotiate. Joe VanGombos will write up a draft reviewing the success of the Town Solar Investment.

**5. Town Data Collection and Reporting** – The Energy Commission has been using Portfolio Manager for many years to keep track of the Town's energy usage, but we ended up having to enter some of the usage data manually. We are investigating better options.

**Adjourn: 7:20 PM**



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**Next meeting will be May 10, 2022**

**Respectfully submitted – Charlie Case**