



TOWN OF STRATHAM

INCORPORATED 1716

10 BUNKER HILL AVENUE STRATHAM NH 03885

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

ACCEPTED MINUTES FOR STRATHAM ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING

January 14, 2025

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

Also Present – David Moore

Call to Order: 6:00 PM

December 10, 2024 minutes were approved

Community Power Updates

CPCNH has set an electricity supply rate of 8.9 cents per KWH for the next six month period from Feb 1 to July 31. This is the first time we have seen the Community Power rate higher than the Unitil default rate (at 8.34 cents per KWH). We suspect some reasons that may have caused this include:

1. As more Cities and Towns join the coalition, the reserve ratio (number of days of reserves) went down because the total load went up with the addition of Concord and other Towns, and the new rate must include adding to the reserves.
2. The PUC has changed a key rule for how the electric companies must account for reconciliation of both delivery and supply from the previous six month period. A change in how the reconciliation is applied to default supply can affect the rate for the next six months either way and in this case it caused Unitil's rate to be reduced from what was originally submitted to the PUC.
3. Community Power rates have consistently been lower than the Power Company's default supply rates. CPCNH may well have created competition as more Cities and Towns join.
4. CPCNH encountered higher than expected delinquencies.
5. CPCNH operates at a disadvantage for Net Metering accounting because of unresolved issues by the PUC

Stratham joined the CPCNH aggregation coalition because it is believed to be an excellent long term option for the Town to keep supply rates low. As a non profit entity run by member



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communities, CPCNH can do this by accessing the wholesale electricity market with a large user base of NH Cities and Towns, also by working closely with the State for supportive legislation, and by joining with other member Towns on energy projects.

The Energy Commission will work with CPCNH to develop a brief and consistent answer for customers who ask why the rates for the next six months will be higher than the Unifil default rate. Joe V will contact Henry Herndon (Director of Member Services) and Charlie will contact Lisa Sweet (Rye Resident and CPCNH Board Member) to get a better understanding.

Paul reviewed the latest Community Power metric data and will update the Energy Commission monthly. Through November 1, the Stratham participation rate is 76% with 98.7% of those opting for Granite Basic.

Municipal Solar

The Police Station Solar Array buy-out is complete as planned which means the Town is no longer paying ReVision Energy 9 cents per KWH for power generated by the array. Now the Town can generate a small amount of income by selling Renewable Energy Credits (RECs). Our contact at ReVision Energy to help with the transition no longer works there. Matt has reached out to another contact.

ReVision is an option to sell RECs for the Town, and CPCNH is another. The possibility of crediting REC income toward maintenance of the array was discussed. Matt will follow up.

Municipal Building Initiatives

HVAC improvements have been completed for the Municipal Center, the Library and the Police Station. A rebate for the project from Unifil is being processed.

Lighting proposals – put off until a later meeting, Mike Welty to report

Group Net Metering Offer

The Energy Commission is continuing to evaluate proposals from Kearsarge and Lodestar.

Stratham Memorial School construction project review

The proposed project has been reduced from 57M to 12M by including only the “must do” building improvements. The project will be presented to the Town on March 4 with public hearings in January and February. Construction is planned for the summer of 2026.

Other – Joe V commented that the Town will need a full time planner to follow up on Sol Smart tasks – like ordinance changes.

Adjourn 7:30 PM