



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

July 8, 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

Call to Order: 6:00 PM

June 10, 2025 minutes were approved

Community Power Updates

The CPCNH electricity supply rate for August 1 to January 31 will be 13.7 cents per kwh for customers in the Unitil delivery area. This increase has been largely driven by an unexpectedly high electricity load last winter which affected all suppliers and caused wholesale supply costs (spot market) costs to peak. CPCNH used its reserves to cover the difference. It is not clear how the utilities will recoup those losses over time or how long it will take CPCNH to fully rebuild its reserves. The CPCNH Board has determined that the cost of electricity supply varies slightly by delivery area and the new rates will reflect that difference. CPCNH has done a thorough review of rates and reserves along with an update in the way the predicted electricity load is calculated. Customers have saved money on their electric bills through CPCNH since Stratham Community Power went on line in early 2024.

In comparison, the Unitil default rate will be 11.8 cents per kwh for this period. The Energy Commission web page will cover rates and options for customers including opting out from Stratham Community Power to the Unitil default rate. This will also be covered in Select Board Newsletters. In an effort to reduce supply rates, the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission now requires the utilities to contract for 50% fixed cost supply and the rest purchased on the wholesale spot market. CPCNH does not have this restriction.

Municipal Solar

The first payment via the Knollwood Company to the Town for the sale of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) earned by the Police Station Solar will start either July 1 or October 1 with payments every three months.



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The latest federal budget is expected to impact climate related initiatives in New Hampshire:

1. The federal direct pay provision to support state and local government projects will be eliminated.
2. The Electric Vehicle tax rebate will end September 30.
3. Projects already in the pipeline will have until the end of 2025 for support.

Community Education Topics

The Energy Commission will work with Diane of the "76ers group" to schedule a Community Education session on Electric Vehicles at the Fire Station's Morgera room. We will ask McFarland Ford (Exeter) and Green Wave (Hampton) to help. Additional topics that could be of interest to residents include: Heat Pumps, Solar Electric, weatherization, electric rates and questions for likely new CPCNH features such as "time of day rates". The Energy Commission has sponsored the educational "Button Up New Hampshire" program in the past

Group Net Metering Offer

The Energy Commission has recommended that the Town Attorney review the proposed Lodestar contract which would provide the Town a small annual payment for being part of their Net Metering electricity load. This will be a 20 year contract with a provision that if the Town leaves the Net Metering Group, it will owe one year of payments back. It is not clear when construction of the new Net Metering facility will be completed. Matt will check to see if the Town Attorney has completed the review.

Stratham Memorial School Construction Project

Mike has reached out to the Construction Manager for the SMS Project and has put him in touch with Unitil since some of the updates to the building could qualify for rebates. Joe V and Matt plan to reserve rebate funding. Mike reported that the boiler replacement and footings for the two wing extensions are planned for 2025

CENH Funding

The Energy Commission voted to recommend the Town re join CENH for \$300 per year. Karen has forwarded the bill to the Finance department for payment.

Rockingham Planning Commission Third Party Electricity Supply for the Town

This three year contract ends on November 30 and will not be extended. The Town will automatically go back to Unitil supply.

Adjourn 7:00 PM