



TOWN OF STRATHAM

INCORPORATED 1716

10 BUNKER HILL AVENUE STRATHAM NH 03885

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DRAFT MINUTES FOR STRATHAM ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING

November 13, 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

Guest: Stephanie Marshall from the Exeter Energy Committee

Call to Order: 6:00 PM

September 9 2025 minutes approved

Presentation on Window Inserts by Stephanie Marshall: The Exeter Energy Committee has once again partnered with the non-profit organization "Window Dressers" to bring low-cost Window Inserts to the Exeter area in January 2026. This year the program is expanded to include Exeter, Brentwood, East Kingston, Kensington, Newfields, and Stratham. So far, over 250 window inserts have been ordered, with one order from Stratham. The Exeter Energy Committee has asked for our help to get the word out and we propose to use the Board Newsletter, the Library Newsletter and "Stratham Talks" Facebook page. The Energy Commission voted to support the program.

Window Inserts are a low cost reusable solution that improves window insulation. They easily slide into existing window openings, are clear and do not impede views. Orders must be placed by November 30th. Sign up to have your windows measured and receive an immediate cost estimate. If you are unable to afford the inserts, we can work with you through our low/no-cost program. In January, a community build will be scheduled where customers and volunteers come together to assemble all window inserts. It is through this shared/volunteer work that we can keep insert costs so low.

Visit: windowdressers.org Order here: <https://windowdressers.org/insulating-inserts/>

Stratham Community Power- Charlie attended the CPCNH Fall Membership Meeting
Key Takeaways:



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1. Outlook for CPCNH rates through 2027

- Expect electric rates to be similar to today's rates through 2027 to rebuild Joint Reserves
- Stratham customers have seen an overall savings even with today's rates
- CPCNH is now using a more accurate energy requirements prediction model to reduce risk
- Is working to reduce the cost of Renewable Energy Credits
- Is committed to achieving price stability by reducing both the cost of operation and the use a higher percentage of fixed price contracts
- Minimum Joint Reserves Target of \$27M can be achieved by January 1, 2027. The Energy Commission will monitor allocation of Joint Reserves to Stratham Community Power
- Desired Joint Reserves Target can be achieved by the end of 2027

2. CPCNH has a leadership role in modernizing the energy market in NH

- CPCNH has been effective at driving lower electricity rates in NH working with the legislature and the Public Utilities Commission. Core strategy: defend fair competition, advance market innovation, member grassroots activation

3. Initiatives Will Help Reduce Cost

- The Poverty Plains 5 MWH installation in Warner (Eversource territory) approved in April 2025 is proceeding and is funded through a long term PPA contract without a buy out provision. A number of Towns have agreed to share the Net Metering load. Stratham can share in a Net Metering load only if an installation is in the Unitil Territory
- CPCNH established a new program called ASPIRE (Annual Solicitation Program to Increase Renewable Energy) to bring more projects like Poverty Plains on line.

New CPCNH Policy Set for Enrolling New Customers into Stratham Community Power

- CPCNH will periodically conduct refresh noticing and enrollment of new customers. The next customer refresh is scheduled for March 2026. Member communities can deviate from the policy after the first scheduled refresh. The Energy Commission sees no reason to do so at this time.

Stratham Memorial School Project - Groundbreaking ceremony and project tour will be September 19. The Energy Commission reminded the project manager that the project may benefit from Unitil rebates. Construction drawings must be submitted to Unitil for the project to be eligible – and the actual construction must follow the drawings as well.

Municipal Solar – ReVision Energy (installer of the Police Station Solar which the Town now owns) has notified the Town that they plan to remove their meter that keeps track of the power eligible for selling RECs. Matt will follow up to see if the existing inverter also supplies this data on a monthly basis or otherwise we would need to read the inverter meter monthly.

Community Education Topics – Matt will follow up with the Rec Department for scheduling the proposed Community Education session on Electric Vehicles. Additional topics that could be of interest to residents include: Heat Pumps, Solar Electric, weatherization, electric rates



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and questions for likely new CPCNH features such as “time of day rates”. The Energy Commission has sponsored the educational “Button Up New Hampshire” in the past.

Group Net Metering Offer

The proposed contract from Freedom Energy for the Group Net Metering offer did not match the verbal agreements - resulting in an unacceptable risk for the Town. This initiative is not worth pursuing. Freedom Energy has proposed a different contract for the Town to look at.

The Town will be redesigning all Town websites. The Energy Commission will ask that the separate pages for the Energy Commission and the Energy Aggregation Committee be combined.

CENH introduced a program called C-PACER (Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy and Resiliency) program for Businesses. The program is administered by the private New Hampshire Business Finance Authority and is intended to help commercial property owners and developers access private sector funding for projects to decrease energy demand and other improvements. The Town would have no responsibility for the program, but would need to adopt an Ordinance and create a C-PACER District to enable Businesses to participate.

Adjourned 7:15 PM